CMS Senior Capstone Component: Reading List

Your reading list forms the basis of your research for your SCE project. The reading list makes up the bulk of primary and secondary sources that will inform the intellectual, theoretical, and methodological scope of the project. A carefully planned and well-researched reading list can be the different between a successful or unsuccessful project.

Reading List Components

- Your reading list must contain no less than forty (40) and no more than (60) individual sources
- Based on the project, the reading list can—and in some cases should—include film, video, television, digital, imagistic, and/or other visual content
- The reading list must be complied in either APA or Chicago format. The format choice is yours, but it must be **CONSISTENT** and **CORRECT**. Incorrectly formatted reading lists will be redone until they are correct
- Your reading list should follow your CMS style guidelines: Times New Roman font, font size 12, 1-inch margins on all pages

READING LISTS THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE ACCPETED

Tips for Constructing Your Reading List

- You will have to go to the library. You will **NOT** be able to construct a list solely from your computer
- Revisit readings from previous classes; you all have read material in your class that can contribute to your project
- Make an appointment with a librarian to get help on searching for sources
- Read endnotes! If you find a helpful article, book chapter, etc. read its end notes. The end notes are a rich source of information—they can point you to additional sources, give you new ideas for research etc.
- Search far and wide. It is unlikely you will find many sources about your exact topic. You will, however, find a number of sources related to it. Be expansive in your search terms—casting a wide net is more helpful than searching on restrictive terms.
- Use Interlibrary Loan. Washington College has a plethora of resources in the library, but they may not have the book or article you want. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) is a tool wherein the library can get you the book or article you are looking for as long as it exists *in any other collegiate library* in Maryland. It is an unbelievably helpful service.

SOURCE VALIDATION

- All your sources must be academic. If you are working on a project that specifically requires non-academic sources, be sure to discuss your sourcing with Prof. Kozma before you start your research process.
- Unless you can validate a digital source as academic it is not valid. If your project is specifically looking at digital content, be sure to discuss the scope of your sources with Prof. Kozma.
- You are at the end of your academic career. You are expected to know what 'counts' as an academic source or not.