

HNRS 2000

RESEARCH & EXHIBITION

Fall 2017

Startup Bibliography & Mentor Introduction

Week of September 18

Unless otherwise indicated, submit your these and future deliverables by uploading them to Brightspace as PDFs under their corresponding assignment slots.

Startup Bibliography

Review the courses that you are taking or have taken and choose one, preferably in your major and most definitely in an area of interest, that will serve as the “content companion” for Research & Exhibition. With this course as a starting point, assemble an initial bibliography of relevant sources and references: certainly include the texts or other materials for that course, but feel free to compile a few more.

Submit this collection as a “startup” bibliography; you may use any format and application/tool with which you are familiar. For each entry/citation, supply the following:

- Reference data (i.e., author, title, edition, publisher, year, etc.)
- A brief description or summary of the source

The purpose of this exercise is to begin defining the scope and boundaries of your research area... we have to start *somewhere* after all. We will explore tools to help manage and grow this bibliography, as well as what should go into final content and presentation, later in the semester.

Mentor Invitation & Acceptance

To accompany your chosen subject matter, select a faculty member who can serve as a research mentor or consultant. Inform this faculty member that you are taking this Research & Exhibition course and have chosen his or her course or area of interest as a basis for possible research or creative work. Explore the prospect of their serving as a mentor for you, and if the signals are positive you can go ahead and provide a formal written invitation.

The template letter/email on the next page summarizes their anticipated interactions with you as your mentor. Customize that message to reflect your individual interests and interaction with that mentor, send it to him or her in writing *with cc: to me*, then request a response back (text for doing this is already in the template), with *reply all* so that I get a copy. Most faculty members will be fine with this (that’s why we do what we do after all!), but if there are any questions, feel free to have them contact me.

Mentor Introduction

Look up this faculty member’s background and curriculum vitae (CV), and write up a brief introduction to this scholar in your own words. Make sure to include at least:

- Formal education/training
- Relevant work experience
- Significant publications and/or work
- Relevant grants or awards, if any
- Area(s) of interest

Most of this information can be found in a recent CV or website, but make sure to rewrite this information in your own words, particularly to tailor this information to your own emphasis or interests.

Mentor Request Letter/Email Template

You may personalize or embellish the beginning and end of this letter for your prospective mentor, but make sure not to leave anything out of the main body. We want to make sure that your mentor has a clear idea of what this role involves.

A written acceptance of this request from your mentor is *required* for passing this course. It does not have a point allocation because it does not really involve brain work. However, if I don't receive it, a passing grade cannot be given.

Dear _____,

(insert individualized language here about you and your interactions with the professor)

This semester, as part of the Honors Colloquium series in the University Honors Program core, I am taking a course called "Research & Exhibition." This 1-unit course seeks to introduce me to the methods of formal academic and creative work. For the course, I am required to produce an annotated bibliography geared toward helping me find research questions or scholarly aims. At the end of the course, I will produce a five-page proposal + three-minute presentation where I will propose, justify, and describe a potential project based on those questions. I hope to use these skills for future endeavors such as applying for grants and fellowships and especially for my senior-year Honors Thesis requirement.

The course's instructor, Prof. John Dionisio (you might know him as Dondi), has asked that I engage a mentor to guide me through parts of this work. I'm hoping you will consider being my mentor, specifically because my interests are closely related to your expertise in _____. If you agree to mentor me, I would ask for your guidance in the following:

- Providing occasional advice on what sources will inform my area of interest
- Meeting with me after I conduct an initial search of sources to help me formulate a research or creative question
- Giving me feedback on the primary work products for this course: an annotated bibliography, a 5-page research proposal, and a 3-minute visual/oral presentation of that proposal
- Reviewing three monthly one-paragraph "research journal" entries that I will email to you and Dr. Dionisio to summarize my research activity for that month
- Reviewing the content of my final presentation to make sure that it is suitable for posting to the Research & Exhibition page of LMU's Digital Commons, at:

<http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/honors-research-and-exhibition/>

The 3-minute presentation will be delivered to my peers, Dr. Dionisio, and other faculty during finals week. If your schedule permits, you are invited to attend this presentation.

If you are willing and able to mentor me, please let me know, using Reply All so that Dr. Dionisio also gets a copy of your response. Thank you very much for your time and consideration!

(...feel free to conclude this letter in other ways that individualize it for you—but do retain the request for a written response so that we both receive it)

Sincerely,
