

Assignment

Writing 'Decathlon'

Arts 140: Arts & the 4th Industrial Revolution

One of the primary goals of this course is to develop your writing ability. This includes research methodology, peer review, and also general writing practice. You have selected "Arts & The 4th Industrial Revolution" from the huge array of topics, and we hope to generate a final output of about 15 pages of polished writing, using this concept (4th industrial revolution) as a content guideline. Rather than take it all at one go, we will 'scaffold' the writing process, and allow the work to complete itself over the course of the course ;).

Process

'How will we do this?' you ask? There are a total of 13 weeks in this course. The last two weeks are dedicated to the final assignment (the debates... stay tuned!), and the first week doesn't count. Otherwise, we will have a small writing assignment due at the beginning of each week, based on the readings and classwork from the previous week. For example, on Monday Sept 30th we will hand in a short writing assignment from the preceding week of Sept 23-27. This should allow for painless assignments, and a solid body of polished work by the end of the course.

Inputs

Fifteen (pages) divided by 10 (weeks) equals one-point-five (1.5) pages per week. Because the final paper is an assignment in and of itself, we don't need to hit the 1.5 mark each week, but this is still a useful guideline. (update, in class on Sept 9th I mentioned 1 page... I'm fine if we build up to 1.5 pages over the duration of the course). Each week we will explore a concept or set of concepts that is important to understanding what the 4th industrial revolution might be, and if it exists at all – and write about it.

Peer Review

Importantly, we will offer you the opportunity to learn from 1) professional writing support personnel during classroom visits, and from 2) the people around you. Each week, we will complete some writing on our own, following the Monday lecture. Please bring this to class with you on Wednesday, in paper or electronic form, and we will spend a portion of Wednesday's class on peer review and editing. A 'polished' piece will be handed in Monday morning.

The end product

The work produced during the course should feed directly into the final paper, though reproducing the assignments verbatim is not enough... the final paper should represent a complete and internally consistent argument, in classical catch-bridge-thesisⁱ essay design, and full academic referencingⁱⁱ

ⁱ This is what we called it when I was in high-school... any updates?

ⁱⁱ We should use APA (American Psychological Association) formatting because that is very common, and also is what I know best ;)

Writing ‘Decathlon’:

Arts 140: Arts & the 4th Industrial Revolution

“**Decathlon**”: The decathlon is a combined event in athletics consisting of ten track and field events. The word decathlon is of Greek origin, from δέκα and ἄθλος. Events are held over two consecutive days and the winners are determined by the combined performance in all.

Day 1	Day 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 metres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 110 metres hurdles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long jump	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discus throw
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shot put	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pole vault
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High jump	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Javelin throw
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 400 metres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1500 metres

Figure 1. Example of a classical Decathlon

Writing Decathlon:

For the purpose of this class, we are going to adapt the concept of the Decathlon, and apply it to writing in the context of “Arts and the Fourth Industrial Revolution”. Each week we will contribute writings in the context of the course material. The following list is a suggestion of writing styles that can be used to meet these goals. Other forms are possible, but please check with your instructor.

- 1) Iambic Pentameter (at least 3 verses)
- 2) 1st Person Fiction
- 3) 3rd Person Fiction
- 4) Blog Entry
- 5) Haiku
- 6) Screenplay / Video Transcription
- 7) Traditional Essay
- 8) Free Verse (3/4 page)
- 9) Wiki entry
- 10) Business Report (fictional)

For each entry, please provide at the top of the page your Name, the Title, and the type of writing style you have chosen for that submission.

Final note, while essays and first/third person fiction can be used as many times as you’d like, we will restrict the other entries to a maximum of ONE for each style. I.e. one cannot submit multiple Haiku poems for this assignment!

Good luck, and *have fun!*