

The objectives of this assignment are

- 1) to take you through a process of critical and creative brainstorming about a subject of study and research; and
- 2) to start up your thinking for your final research paper.

**This assignment has multiple components as described below. All the components must be handed in for this assignment to be considered complete and marked.**

### **Step One**

Choose an information/communication technology and a theory from the course (examples: spectacle and television, surveillance and cell phones, Marxism and iPods) that you are interested in researching for your final paper

### **Step Two**

Make a list (7-10, in short sentences or point form) of the possible impacts, influences or consequences of this technology based on research or your own observation - in terms of 1-2 of the following dimensions:

- Political: The ways your selected technology is shaped by and shapes forms of political power and discourse.
- Psychological: The shaping of individual attitudes, perceptions and personalities through engagements with your selected topic.
- Cultural: Implications of the selected topic for cultural formations and expressions including effects on popular culture.
- Aesthetic: Impacts of the selected topic on artistic forms, genres, expressions.
- Spiritual/Metaphysical: Evolution of structures of belief and their transformation through the use of the selected technology/theory.
- Environmental: How the selected technology/theory influences environments (natural, built, social)

### **Step Three**

Take 2 items from your list and write a paragraph (150-250 words max) expanding these impacts and possible overlaps and interconnections between them, focusing as much as you can on the larger dimensional significance(s) of these interconnections.

### **Step Four**

Choose 1 of the impacts you have expanded upon. Think of the political structures, social institutions, cultural beliefs and practices, artifacts, people (groups or individuals), academic theories (what you have learned here or in other courses) and books and other resources (including websites) that are related to this impact. Visually represent these ideas in a diagram, map or image (could be a collage) of some kind. Use text to explain your visual interpretation. (This should be on standard letter size paper. It can be hand written but be sure your writing is decipherable.)

### **Step Five**

Write 3-5 questions that arise based on the diagram/map/image above and would require and allow you to do further research about them.

**Step Six**

Write a paragraph (100-150 words max) that formulates 1) a narrowed-down topic for a research paper; 2) a preliminary hypothesis about this topic. Post this on the course website in your tutorial forum. You must also hand this in on paper.

All six steps must be completed and handed in on paper. All pieces must be stapled together as one package. NO FOLDERS, BINDERS, ETC. Think of and include an ORIGINAL title for your assignment, but DO NOT INCLUDE A TITLE PAGE. Be sure to have your name and tutorial number on the top sheet.

Due date: **18/NOV** at the beginning of lecture. Late submissions are subject to 10% deduction per day including weekends.