

## **Faculty Information Literacy Stipend Final Report**

**Name:** Denise DuPont and Constantin Icleanu

**Course:** Span 3373

**Semester:** Spring 2025

**Introduction** (This section to include why you decided to create the assignment, and how the information literacy learning goals support the course.)

We decided to create this assignment in order to actively incorporate AI tools into our research assignments. We met with Rebecca Graff twice over the course of the semester, and she went over RAG AI tools and the library databases. Both sessions were very helpful, enabling the students to bring more sophisticated academic articles into their research papers.

### **Description of the information literacy assignment or activities**

This assessment consists of a research paper showcasing the student's understanding and development of an argumentative thesis incorporating the ethical/social/political/historical implications of one or more of the texts/films discussed in class as related to the concept of "*Convivencia*." The student may choose to compare/contrast different texts and films, explore the representation of immigrants, Muslim, Jews, or Christians, or analyze any other topic of interest that has been cleared with the professors first.

This Final Research paper is a 6-8-page essay on specific aspects of the historical, and literary texts we studied in class. The student must:

- Have a clear argumentative thesis statement that guides your reader. The target audience is class peers.
- Develop your topic thoroughly and quote from three academic peer-reviewed sources + other textbook or other texts, demonstrating mastery of topics discussed in both of our library workshops (February 7, RAG AI; and April 9, strategic searches for sources)
- Conclude your paper with a paragraph tying up all your thoughts into a cogent and complete argument.
- Use bibliographical documentation following the MLA style.

**NOTE ON PAPER REQUIREMENTS:** We may change instructions about paper length and academic sources as we work with our Subject Librarian.

**NOTE ON SCAFFOLDING:** Our objective is for the assignment to be integral to our overall course goals, and to be scaffolded throughout the semester (see item 3 below for details on how we will do this). The Final Research Response Paper will be a multi-stage project that includes concepts built upon through multiple instructional sessions.

**Method of assessment** (Did the students do well? Demonstrated learning? Grades? What metrics did you use? Were students satisfied with their learning? What artifacts did the students produce?)

Yes, our perception is that the quality of the research is higher, so we are considering this a success. The students produced research term papers of 6-10 pages in length. We graded according to a rubric that included categories related to sources and how they were used in the paper. We are attaching two documents that demonstrate students' satisfaction with their learning. We gave them a survey to assess their reactions, and one of the documents here is a compilation of all of their responses. The other is a ChatGPT summary of their responses, which is helpful, but it is also nice to see the detailed, individual responses so we're including both documents in this report.

**Results and impact on student learning** (This can include student self-evaluations or feedback, pre- and post-test results, rubric results, and/or impact on other student assignments.)

See attached documents.

**Summary and next steps** (This can include your reflections on working with the students on information literacy goals, how you might improve on the assignment or activities, and/or how you might address information literacy goals using other methods or in other courses, would you do this assignment sequence again and why or why not.)

Yes, we would do this assignment again. One thing we would change is that we would have a focused workshop on creating argumentative thesis statements BEFORE meeting with the librarian. Then the students would be able to get more out of the first session and would not be distracted by the need to come up with a good thesis statement.

**Appendix** (This includes the assignment sheet, rubric if used, and example(s) of student work.)

This is the rubric we used for grading:

Final Research Paper Rubric

Argumentative Thesis 0 - 20 pts

Development of the Thesis 0 - 40 pts

Conclusion 0 - 10 pts

Grammar and vocabulary 0 - 20 pts

Sources 0 - 10 pts