

Synthesis Paper Guidelines

This semester, you are to write three “synthesis papers.” This is an opportunity to engage deeply with readings done in class, and to position the arguments and viewpoints of a variety of authors into a kind of dialogue. You should select three authors to analyze for each synthesis paper. These papers do not necessarily need to develop an argument independent of the texts that you assess; rather, this is an opportunity for you to clarify what a particular scholar is arguing and how it responds to, challenges, or enhances the argument of a different scholar. You should, however, develop a clear topic or “key term” on which the paper is centered. For the first synthesis paper, you may wish to consider, for example, how different authors theorize “femininity,” “difference” or “identity” or, even, “music.”

These papers should be: 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins, pages numbered, twelve-point font (in a standard font such as Times New Roman or Garamond). Provide references for the works you are citing. Structure your paper carefully and edit for coherence: provide a clear statement of your thesis in the first paragraph, and make sure that your thoughts flow in a logical way. Spell check and edit for grammar. Your grade will reflect, in part, how successfully you format and copy-edit your paper.

You are not required to do outside reading beyond the three authors that you have read in class and selected to review in this paper. However, if you do wish to include additional sources, please cite and include them in a works cited list. Citations of books and articles should include the author’s last name, year, and page number, i.e. (Anderson 1991: 89). Web sources should include the entire URL and the date of access, i.e. (www.grovemusiconline.com/Mozart, accessed 6/15/2010).

The first of your three synthesis papers is **due in printed form at the start of class on Thursday, September 24th**. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade per day late.

Future synthesis papers (due at the beginning of class on Oct. 27 and Nov 24) should conform to the guidelines provided here.