**42/59.249 Presentation #2: Analysis through creativity**

For this assignment, worth 10% of your course grade, you will present a piece of your creative, interpretive work to the class. This assignment appropriately stretches the definition of academic skills to include the kinds of thinking and expression that are possible when we address intellectual ideas in a creative, interpretive, imaginative, and artistic way. While it does not have to present an argument per se, if you are working with an existing text, your creative project should show your thorough understanding of the text and give a sense of how you actively interpret that text. Be suggestive, be associative, be symbolic! Your project should add something to our understanding of the ideas and/or texts we've considered this semester.

**Your creative project—whatever physical object or intellectual product you generate—is due at the time of your presentation**, 4/28, or 4/30. We'll sign up for those slots in class. If you opt to create a product that can be shared via the wiki, you should post it before your presentation so that we can all refer to it at the time of your presentation.

**Please note** that your attendance on the days of other people's presentations is necessary, as on each of those days, you will have a small written assignment to turn in to me, which I will explain on the first day of presentations.

If you refer to or use any kind of source, include a complete, MLA-style bibliography of every resource you consulted and every item you included on your wiki and/or any written product. (This does <u>not</u> include things like photos cut for a collage!)

**Here are some possibilities for the creative project:**
*   Write a very short story or scene, or write a poem, that revolves around issues relating to technology. It could be scary, or funny, or sad, set in the present, the past or the future. (Stories, narratives, or scripts should be 3-4 pages typed and double spaced)
*   Take a brief scene from any novel or story we've read and draw it in comic book or graphic novel form. You don't need to be a serious artist, but if you can only draw stick figures don't choose this option unless your style of illustration doesn't rely on hand drawings.
*   Create a collage that represents your interpretation of a text that we've considered the course of this semester. This should be approximately 16 x 20 inches (leave a border inside so the artwork does not go right to the edge). Be creative here; feel free to use images that are symbolic or impressionistic rather than literal. In your presentation, you will want to explain how they represent the text. Your images should be quite crowded and plentiful—sparse collages don't work well.
*   Choose an aspect of technology that relates to ideas we've discussed this semester that interests you (e.g. how about the uses of those robot seals in nursing homes?) Do a bit of research on this topic and create a presentation you could give to the class, describing what you've learned. Be sure to acknowledge your sources (sources do not need to be particularly scholarly for this, but you need to acknowledge them). Make a wiki page with lots of creatively chosen images and informational links and a little bit of your own writing to hold it all together.
*   Create an ad campaign for a technology that exists either in one of our texts or in your imagination, or an existing technology that doesn't typically get advertised. You might make your ad campaign serious, or you might make it a parody either of the technology itself or the way people use it. Make a mock-up of the print ads or billboards and, write a script for the 30-second radio ad or the TV commercial. If you're ambitious, record the ad!

- Write a philosophical treatise about technology—deal with a specific important question, like why people are drawn a particular technology, what values are inherent in the technology, or are brought out in the way people use it. Is the technology neutral? What are the dangers associated with it? Should it be banned? Should everyone be required to use it? Use examples from your experience, or even from stories/films. You may choose to create a parody, rather than making a realistically defensible argument. Do not attempt to cover all of these questions! If you have a different question you want to deal with, run it by me. (3 pages, typed and double spaced)
- Make a soundtrack for your own personal film version of one of our novels. Include cover art, a 10-song track list, and liner notes explaining how your each choice fits a particular moment in the text.
- Create a diorama that represents your interpretation of a text that we've considered the course of this semester. Use a box between the size of a shoebox and a paper case. Use lots of detail, adapting your ideas about the text with the materials you have at hand. Use your creativity. In your presentation, you will want to explain how the diorama captures some essential aspect of the story or novel.
- Do any of these projects that are based on an existing text with a text that we have not dealt with in class, but that relates to the class themes! Pick one of the short stories in Masterpieces that we have not read and use it, or choose a film, novel, or television show that you know.

**What else might you like to do?** Feel free to come see me about alternative ideas. Use your imagination! **Work to your strengths.** If you can't draw, don't make a comic book that relies on your artistic ability. If writing is not your greatest strength, do something visual. Finally, don't overspend in an attempt to be flashy. Ingenuity is key—there won't be a correlation between your cash outlay and your grade!

By now, you know that I see the primary purpose of this course as working on your analytical and critical thinking skills, and your ability to use those tools to express yourself. When I grade these projects (and keep in mind I'll have higher expectations than I did with presentation one, since this is worth twice as much in terms of your grade and you have the whole semester's worth of study behind you) I will consider the degree of critical thinking that is evident, the creativity with which you approach your ideas, and your degree of excitement about your own ideas and work. Students who do the best on this assignment are the ones who have enthusiasm for the project they've chosen to do, who are having fun thinking, and who put the most care and thought into the product.

**At a minimum, your 5-minute presentation should offer**
- Articulation of a clear, central statement about what you intended to express, and why you chose the format you did to express that idea. *(Hmmmm… almost like a thesis….)*
- A demonstration/reading/exhibition of your project. In other words, share it with us so we can see what you did and why! Explain it to us, or read it to us, guide us through it… whatever verb makes sense given the kind of project you did. Do not just hold it up and point!

**If you have any questions at all, please ask! I'm happy to conference with you to help you get started or stay on track!**