

Honors Contract for DES 284

“Outside Experience in Digital Media (September-December)”

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*1. What is your project and how does it differ from the regular work of the class?*

I will continue to assist Prof. Michael Swartz, Prof. Pamela Karimi, and Don Burton in their joint project “*Black Spaces Matter: Exploring the Architectonics of an Abolitionist Neighborhood*”.

This project, which is building an art installation in Boston that will run from November to January, involves many aspects of art history and digital media. This project revolves around the historical depth of New Bedford neighborhoods, including its prominence in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad. The installation seeks to immerse and interact with the audience, which is a notable strength and purpose of digital media. I will continue to learn different skills of performing in the field of digital media, which shows me how to utilize the skills taught to me in class.

In contrast to the idea-based and conceptual phase of the previous semester project, this semester we will assemble the clearly defined parts of the exhibition, followed by its completion in November. Since this class deals with story structure, I will be paying particular attention to how Don Burton reaches and immerses an audience using interviews and shot footage to create a compelling interactive documentary.

I will also design an informational pamphlet detailing the historical societies and museums in New Bedford, which will hopefully be displayed on the UMass Dartmouth campus and said institutions. The goal of this pamphlet will be to reach a broad public audience and entice them to learn more about the history of New Bedford, as well as why it is important to preserve it.

*2. Why/how is this project important to your Honors learning experience?*

This project challenges me to perform in the field of digital media, and think deeply about the interaction between art and its audience, an ideal very central to digital media. The New Bedford informational pamphlet, unlike the Black Spaces Matter project, is an original concept I will undergo mostly on my own. I hope to build a career in digital media, and practicing ideas relating to story structure will teach me what to do and what not to do in the future. I will be taught several more examples of creating digital media than what is taught in class, as well as auxiliary practices in the field. I have been learning many basics of digital media throughout my school career, and this work experience is the clear next step in developing a future in my major, and the pamphlet project will help me feel more comfortable creating original content.

*3. How will you complete your project and what will be the final outcome?*

I will participate in multiple stages of the creation of the Black Spaces Matter project, all of which are useful in demonstrating effective digital media. Some examples of what I will do are listed below, however, activities may be added, removed, or replaced throughout the semester. If a significant change is made to this list, an amended honors contract will be submitted.

- Creating and completing an ‘interactive documentary’ that works within the installation to increase audience retention and interest. The ideas conceptualized last semester will be implemented into the installation.
- Learning from Don Burton about how to edit professional interviews into coherent informational videos.
- Constructing the exhibition space from multiple elements, in a way that a public audience can follow, understand, and be interested by
- If necessary, any assistance needed from Prof. Swartz’s or Prof. Karimi’s parts of the project.

I will also design an informational pamphlet about the historical societies and museums in New Bedford, as well as print and distribute them at UMass Dartmouth and New Bedford. I have already completed a first draft, and will use the feedback from the institutions on the pamphlet to create the final product.

The amount of activities I perform for this project should not exceed 30 additional hours of work outside the class over the course of the semester, or should at least conform to a realistic comfortable workload.

*4. Provide a timetable, including meetings with the instructor, deadlines for components or drafts of the project, and due date of final project.*

Because of the flexible nature of this project, a static syllabus may not be efficient in completing it. Secondly, because the *Black Spaces Matter* project ends in November, my honors contract project ends when I have completed the pamphlet project closer to the end of the semester. I will also submit a report on the effectiveness and execution of the exhibition in December. I will check in periodically with Professor Millstein, who will check that I have been doing not only satisfactory work within the project, but also that I have been learning skills relating to digital media.

Week of September 24: Edit Diana Samões interview

Week of October 8: Meet with Don Burton, discuss final exhibition plans

Week of October 15: Finish 2nd draft of pamphlet, send to institutions for feedback

Week of October 22 (ongoing): Assembling exhibition space from completed elements

Week of October 29: Deliver 1st report on exhibition project to Prof. Millstein, detailing my entire involvement with the project and what I’ve learned in relation to digital media

Week of November 5 (ongoing): Final work on exhibition

Week of November 5: Finish designing pamphlet

Week of November 19: Opening of exhibition

Week of November 26: Print copies of pamphlet

Week of December 3: Deliver 2nd report on exhibition project to Prof. Millstein, explaining some of the strengths and weaknesses of the exhibition, observations on public interaction

Week of December 10: Finish distributing pamphlet to locations

Week of December 17: Submit Honors Contract Completion Form

*5. What are the criteria that will be used to evaluate the project? Will it be graded? If so, what percent of the course grade will the project constitute? If not, what are the minimum requirements that the project must meet in order to be judged acceptable?*

I will be evaluated based on the assistance I do on the listed activities by Prof. Millstein. I will be in contact with Don Burton, Prof. Karimi, and Prof. Swartz throughout my time working on the project. It will not be graded, and my performance will be judged acceptable by the opinions of Don Burton and Prof. Millstein.

*6. If the project is deemed unsatisfactory, will it result in a lower grade for the course?*

No. The work I do on this project will not be reflected anywhere in the standard course. Unsatisfactory work on the project will only result in a denial of honors credit for the course.