

## Transatlantic Novel: Final Paper

Friday 4 December	BRIEF presentations in class
Monday 14 December	Final paper due (in hard copy, by noon)

For your final paper, I want to give you plenty of options so that you can find something you want to work on and that serves your needs for development as a writer and scholar. Here's what I have in mind:

**1) Re-do the Visual Culture & the Novel paper:** You'd basically follow the same assignment guidelines as those for Paper #1, but pick three different images and write an entirely new paper. I strongly advise that you review the original assignment sheet for that paper and the comments that I made on the paper you submitted. You will want to aim for an 8 – 12 page paper; note that the previous version of the assignment required a 4 – 8 pages, so you will either be leaning on the long side of that assignment, or possibly adding one (maybe 2, tops) images to the discussion. I believe it's entirely possible to write about just three images and fill 8 pages, but obviously, your mileage may vary depending on the images you choose and what you have to say/argue about them. I am willing to be flexible on the number of images; I'm interested in you developing an interesting, thoughtful selection of images and exploring the varied connections and contrasts between and among them.

**2) Re-do the Mapping the Novel paper:** You'd basically follow the same assignment guidelines as those for Paper #2, but pick five different locations and write an entirely new paper. I strongly advise that you review the original assignment sheet for that paper and the comments that I made on the paper you submitted. You will want to aim for an 8 – 12 page paper; note that the previous version of the assignment required a 4 – 8 pages, so you will either be leaning on the long side of that assignment, or possibly adding one (maybe 2, tops) locations to the discussion. I believe it's entirely possible to write about just five locations and fill 8 pages, but obviously, your mileage may vary depending on the images you choose and what you have to say/argue about them. I am willing to be flexible on the number of locations; I'm interested in you developing an interesting, thoughtful selection of locations and exploring the varied connections and contrasts between and among them. For this iteration, it is your choice whether you want to create a map or not. I think it would be helpful, but you are not required to turn in a visual.

**3) Prepare a standard term paper:** If you're thinking of graduate school and need more work on a standard term-paper sort of thing, or if you simply want something a little more familiar, you can go ahead and write a more standard/traditional term paper on one of our novels.

No matter what option you choose, during our last class meeting, we will be doing **brief** presentations on the paper topics. You do NOT need to have your paper completed then, but you should have basically a list of bullet points suggesting what you'll be writing about. If you choose Option 1 or 2, you might show us one or two of your images, or talk a bit about one or two of your map sites. This is an opportunity for you to talk with classmates and get some ideas.

Please come and ask me questions about the assignment or about your ongoing draft of the paper. I am happy to talk with you about possible approaches to help you find a topic/approach that will be interesting to you!

If you chose Option 1 or 2, I would STRONGLY recommend that you review the comments on the previous iteration of the paper to make sure you understand any suggestions or concerns I mention there, so that you can make a strong paper.

If you choose Option 3, you should probably talk to me about what you're planning to do. You will want to have a thesis for this paper, although I am fairly open about what that thesis might be, so long as it's focused on one (or more) of the books we've studied in the course. You might trace a particular trope (the noble slave, the model woman, the power of fate/providence) to trace through a few different novels (or just one novel), or you might focus on a particular theme, angle, or argument within just one of our novels. You should aim for 8 – 12 pages with this paper.

General stuff:

- You're aiming for 8 – 12 pages, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.
- You need to have a Works Cited page at the end.
- You must cite everything in MLA style (please!).
- Your paper should make an argument/have a thesis.
- The best papers are the result of multiple drafts. Start thinking about this paper now and get going on outlines, ideas, etc. Go to the Writing Center! Talk to a classmate! Talk to me!
- Take a look at my "Helpful Hints" document to avoid doing stuff that makes your reader (me) angry.