**Prospectus (10% of the final grade, to be submitted via Canvas before lecture)**

You are invited to create a prospectus or “pitch” for your video project.  Prior to making your video, you must design, pitch and receive approval for your project. Drawing upon your interests, you should write one carefully written and constructed paragraph (100-150 words) that includes a clear statement of your topic area and a list of the works that you intend to analyze. It should list the main issues and concerns that you hope to address.

Your TA will give you feedback and guidance as you design the project.  In some cases, you will be asked to focus, clarify, or even alter your proposal by your TA based upon an assessment of how feasible and appropriate the project is.  You must receive approval of your prospectus prior to embarking on designing the video in order to have the best chance of success.

There are only two concrete requirements, in addition to the length of the video (6-10 minutes), and they are:

1. You should include at least **2** works (from Gilgamesh though Pushkin) from the syllabus. Please do not repeat the text you used for the first essay.
2. You may refer to additional works not on the syllabus, but you should not assume that your viewer is familiar with them and they should not be the primary focus of your project.

The focus of the project should be on a topic and methodology related to the content and disciplines of the course, which include literary and cultural studies, so please avoid highly technical approaches. Please also keep in mind that all the materials in the syllabus are creative works, and they should not be mistaken for scientific or historical representations of the world as it “really” is. Prospectuses that focus on whether these fictional works are “true” to reality tend to rely too heavily on description and to be less successful in analytic terms. Once again, consultation of outside sources is not recommended, and the video should be entirely your own original work.

Your project will be more successful if you propose a topic that requires analysis and is “controversial,” i.e. intelligent people might have different opinions about the topic. You should do more than state the obvious or simply repeat historical facts. A “controversial” project has a number of potentially valid perspectives, which are debatable. It is up to you to make the case, based on evidence and logic, for your point of view.

In the case of any serious concerns with your prospectus, we will work with you to craft a feasible and rewarding topic from your interests. Once your prospectus is approved, you can feel confident in going ahead with the project as you have described it. The prospectus is an official and graded portion of the assignment, and it should be taken seriously.  Please submit your best work.  Although we will not rescore the prospectus, we will be happy to help you to improve the prospectus and topic until it can be approved. We will also work with anyone who has an approved prospectus to make it better.

Your TA will give you feedback using the following rubric.

Two further recommendations:

1. lease do consult with your TAs or instructor, either before or after the prospectus is due, to talk about any of the thoughts and questions you are raising
2. The following ideas (in no particular order) may help to get you thinking, but this list is neither exhaustive nor coercive:

Ethical leadership  
The role of violence  
The role of women  
Representations of sexuality  
The role of magic and the supernatural

The role of dreams  
The role of animals

Friendship and companionship

Immigration and outsiders

The power of storytelling

Justice and punishment

The place of human beings in the world

The idea of an afterlife

The role of the imagination

The value of personal responsibility and duty

Problems with language and words

The role of hospitality and food

The role of faith and religion

The value of education

Treason and betrayal

The relationship between parents and children

The role of art and literature

Love and romance

The Consequences of wealth and privilege, etc.

We hope you will choose a project that truly interests you and we will look forward to hearing from you!