**Assignment Sheet: Unit 3**

Writing in the Humanities

Feeder 3.1: Genre Analysis and Topic Selection

Feeder 3.2: Abstract

Unit Project 3: Conference Paper

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| Role | Audience | Purpose | Genre | Rhetorical Situation |
| Student researcher | Fellow undergraduate students at UNC Chapel Hill  | Briefly inform conference attendees about your research on Latino/a/x science fiction. | Conference paper presentation on Latino/a/x Science Fiction | You have to write a paper on how the short story of your choice uses science fiction as a medium to highlight an issue faced by the Latino/a/x community.  |

In this Unit, we will partner with the Latino/Latina Studies Program (LSP) at UNC (<https://lsp.unc.edu/>) to write a conference length research paper on Latino/Latina sci-fi. We will select short stories from the collection *Cosmos Latinos*. The stories will be provided via Sakai, and students are free to choose any story/stories from the collection. This Unit is designed to help us understand the ways in which science fiction can function as a medium of social critique. The Unit will also allow us the opportunity to explore the unique challenges faced by the Latino/Latina community. The purpose of this unit is to help students think critically about social issues, identify how these issues can find representation through a literary genre, and to then write an insightful and cohesive research paper that performs such a literary analysis.

Topics can range from, but are not limited to:

* migration and immigrant rights
* nationalism and the security state
* colonialism and post-colonialism
* race, class, and gender issues and intersectionality
* pollution, radioactivity and biowarfare
* environmental justice
* technology and society
* global capitalism and labor rights

For the Unit Project, each student will write a humanities conference paper, which will provide real-world experience in the academic field. The last two days of class will be reserved for a round-table presentation of the papers, with each student getting 8 minutes for their presentation.

**Assignment sequence:**

**Feeder 3.1: Genre Analysis and Topic Selection (250 words)**

For this Feeder, you will analyze science fiction as a genre: what are the commonly held expectations of the genre? How would you define it? Students will use the genre analysis table provided in class to help formulate their definition. We will spend 2-3 lectures discussing the science fiction short story, as well as the tradition of Latino/a/x science fiction, to give you a model of the genre. This section should be around 100 words.

For the second section of the feeder, you will connect your analysis above to the short story you have selected, and identify the main themes you wish to explore. In this section, you will briefly outline how a particular aspect of science fiction helps elucidate a contemporary social issue pertinent to the Latino/a/x community. This section should be around 150 words.

Feeder 3.1 should be submitted as a PDF document (not exceeding a total word count of 250). A successful feeder should:

* Outline major conventions of the genre
* Identify these conventions in the story of your choosing
* Not just be a description of the story, but should reveal a critical engagement with the issues and themes that stood out to you

**Feeder 3.1: Due on November 09, 2021 (to be uploaded to the Assignments section on Sakai before midnight)**

**Feeder 3.2: Abstract for Conference Paper (250 words)**

An abstract is a commonly used genre in academic conferences. An abstract is a brief account of the paper presentation that highlights the central argument of the paper, the author’s research methodology, and identifies the gaps within the field of research that the author hopes to address. It is often the first piece of writing that other members of the academic field encounter, and is instrumental in the selection of a conference paper, its placement in a panel, as well as a participant’s decision to attend the paper presentation. For this feeder, students receive practice with this real-world genre and will write a 250-word abstract for their paper. You will be provided handouts and examples of the genre. A successful abstract should:

* Clearly inform the readers of the paper’s main argument (thesis statement)
* Briefly outline the existing research, identifying gaps and need for intervention
* Highlight the significance of such an intervention
* Identify the research methods used in the paper

**Feeder 3.2: Due on November 16, 2021 (to be uploaded to Sakai by midnight)**

**Unit Project: Conference Presentation paper (750-1000 words)**

For the main project for this unit, you will write a conference-length paper that explores how the story of your choice highlights a social issue related to the Latino/a/x community. This paper will go through a thorough process of drafting, revision, peer reviews, and you will receive feedback from me in the individual conferences before turning it in. You will post your papers to Sakai (as a PDF document) before coming to class on the due date. A successful paper should include:

* an original argument (thesis statement) that relates the work of fiction to an ongoing social justice issue
* a cohesive structure that centers that argument, with an introduction, body, and conclusion
* textual evidence from your primary source (the short story)
* citations of secondary sources (about 2 secondary sources)
* adhere to the word (and time) limit to allow for a generative discussion

**Unit Project 3: Due on November 26, 2021 (to be uploaded to Sakai by 12 pm)**

**We will hold a student conference on the last two lectures, i.e. November 26 2021 and November 30, 2021. Each student will get up to 8 minutes to present their paper (including one question from the audience). This exercise is designed to help students get practice with conference presentations, both as presenters as well as attendees.**