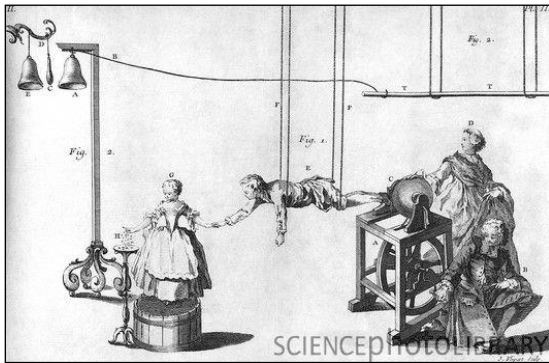


**C&I 2: Literatures of the World**  
**Culminating Conference Paper & Virtual Conference Presentation & Participation**  
**Winter 2017**  
**Dr. Robin Tremblay-McGaw**

“The term *essai* was coined by Michel Montaigne, a sixteenth-century Frenchman; in French, it means ‘to attempt’ or ‘to try.’ For Montaigne and the essayists who follow his tradition, the essay is less an opportunity *to prove* something than an attempt *to find out*. An essay is often exploratory rather than argumentative, testing the truth of an idea or attempting to discover what might be true.” –Bruce Ballinger *The Curious Researcher*



Credit: [SCIENCE, INDUSTRY & BUSINESS LIBRARY/NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY](#)

**Caption:** Static electricity experiments, historical artwork. Turning the wheel at lower right creates a charge on the man on the trapeze, which he passes to the girl on the wooden (non-conducting) block. She is observing the effects on a pile of small flakes. This illustration is from *Recueil de Traites sur l'Electricite, Traduits de l'Allemand & de l'Anglois, seconde partie*, published in 1748.

**What: Culminating Conference Essay (5-7 pages; 1500-2100 words)**

- For this essay, consider what topics, themes, genres, questions, etc., have most engaged you in the texts we've read and viewed. Choose something to think and write more deeply about; for example, some topics that come to mind include the construction and roles of women and/or men; acts of protest; appropriating and remixing texts as a way to perform social critiques; the racial contract; violence; love and sex; understanding justice; the dangers and promises of film; exposing injustice; the list is endless. What interests you?
- Once you have settled on a topic, select **two texts** that somehow address, embody, illustrate, or open up questions regarding your topic. Identify and consider the specific cultural, historical, political and other contexts out of which your texts emerge. What is important about the author or creator of these texts? You may build upon texts you've already begun to think and write deeply about in exams 1 & 2 though, of course, you will be doing new writing for this paper.

**How:**

- Your conference paper has several goals; it should
  - \*clearly describe your topic of inquiry;
  - \*explain and analyze how two distinct texts illustrate, embody, reflect, or relate to your topic;
  - \*specifically identify and discuss the relevant cultural, political, artistic, social, economic, etc, contexts for each text;
  - \*consider how these distinct contexts impact the texts under consideration. In other words, how are the worldviews or cultural perspectives and thus the texts similar or different;

\*examine closely one or more passages (or scenes or frames if you are writing about a film), in each of your texts, anchoring your discussion of the texts with specific quotations and analysis from these selections; (you will want to read each section a number of times, noticing the specific language it uses, its form or genre [poem, novel, critical discourse, short story, film, etc.], the various elements of style it employs--point of view, tense, diction, sentence structure, use of figurative language, etc.--the themes and arguments it explores);

\*identify and discuss *the value and/or relevance of these texts and your topic as objects of study or reflection for readers/viewers today in the 21st century*. In other words, what is the value of these texts for us today?

- I will be looking for you to demonstrate **YOUR** individual, engaged, and rigorous attention. As always, *specificity* is necessary. Please avoid generalities and use *your best, most fluid prose!*
- As always, you must properly use and cite quotes, composing an essay that is appropriate in structure, tone, and logic for, in this case, a general audience of interested but non-expert readers. You might even consider writing for your real audience--your peers! In other words, consider what tone and diction is most effective for your purpose.

*This essay will serve as the foundation upon which you will build your Final Multimodal Investigation & Research Project.*

It is not necessary, but you may wish to include:

- Compelling and pertinent graphics
- An interesting epigraph in the form of a quotation

#### **Due Dates for Conference Paper:**

- **Monday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>**. Conference Paper Abstract due [5%]
- **Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**: Draft of Conference Paper due.
- **Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**: Conference Paper due. [10%]

#### **What: Virtual Conference Presentation [10%]**

We will have a virtual *Literatures of the World Conference* at the end of the quarter. You will create a multimodal presentation based on your conference paper that will be uploaded to Camino and viewed and commented on by your classmates. Your presentation may be no longer than 5 minutes! It should work as a stand-alone presentation; that is, you will want to record your aural portion of the presentation.

#### **How: Your stand-alone conference presentation will introduce and include:**

- your topic
- a rationale or compelling reason for your investigation
- compelling and pertinent graphics and sound
- specific quotes from the texts you explore
- contextualizing background information
- discussion of texts and topic's relevance for 21st century readers/viewers

- citations

You will post your presentation to Camino on the discussion thread I will set up for our conference. The presentation cannot be any longer than 5 minutes. In as much as possible, your presentation should stand on its own; that is, someone who views and/or listens to your presentation should be able to understand your project. You will likely want to record a voice-over narration for your presentation.

### **Conference Participation**

**[10%]**

**What & How:** You will also post on Camino in the presentation discussion thread **discussion comments and questions for 3 peer presentations**. The quality of your posts will comprise **[10%] of your grade**. I will assign you three presentations to comment on and a rubric for these comments will be available.

### **Conference Presentation & Comments Due Dates:**

- **Draft Multimodal Presentation due Wednesday, March 15th.** Bring your laptop to class.
- **Final Presentation due**, uploaded to discussion forum by **Sunday March 19th, midnight**. No late presentations will be accepted!!!!
- **Conference Discussion Comments due Wednesday at 5pm March 22<sup>nd</sup> !**

### **Academic Integrity Pledge:**

Santa Clara University is implementing an Academic Integrity pledge designed to deepen the understanding of and commitment to honesty and academic integrity.

The Academic Integrity Pledge states:

*"I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code."*

I ask that you affirm this pledge and apply these principles to your work on the conference. Please copy, paste, and sign this pledge at the end of your conference paper.

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