

HIST 380: History of Public Health
New Jersey Institute of Technology, Spring 2020
Professor: Rosanna Dent

ALTERNATE FINAL ASSIGNMENT OPTION

You already prepared proposals for your final essay or un-essay. However, understanding that it may be hard to complete the proposed project for a variety of reasons, students can choose the following alternate assignment.

COVID-19 Archive Entries

For: "A Journal of the Plague Year: An Archive of COVID-19," <https://covid19.omeka.net/about>.

Identify OR create a primary source or a series of primary sources from our current moment that you think may be of interest to a future historian. We will talk in class about the many issues to consider when imagining an archive and the politics of the archive.

Option A: One Source

This option applies if you choose to create a more substantial primary source (such as an interview, a video, a podcast, an art work, a photo essay, an audio diary, or a series of diary entries, or something else).

Option B: Three (or more) Sources

This option applies if you choose to find primary sources created by others. These sources can include: an image; a news article; an interview; a media clip; a screen shot from social media; a meme; a communication of some form such as series of texts or an email or announcement; or a website or link; or something else I haven't considered. There are two sub-options that I encourage you to consider:

- i. Because we have been focusing on GLOBAL public health all semester, I strongly encourage you to consider primary sources from non-US/European perspectives. Take a look at the materials in the archive at the moment, and think about what stories and experiences are missing. Consider whose experiences are underrepresented in the news you consume. If you have family or friends in other countries, if you speak other languages, or even if you are just interested in another part of the world, draw on these connections to incorporate important material and diversify the geographical, linguistic, and cultural content of the collection. It would be particularly powerful to find three sources from a single, underrepresented geographical area (city, country, or even region).
- ii. We will be talking about the importance of CARE and SOLIDARITY in these times of social distancing. I strongly encourage you to find examples of sources that document acts of care, broadly construed. How do people come together in times of crisis? How do they create solidarity? How do they demonstrate care? And how can we document this?

For both option A and B:

For your source(s), write a (minimum) 1-page analysis of the source. Similarly to the original primary source assignment, you must do your best to answer the questions: What is this source? Who made it and why? Who was the audience? How did it circulate? Then, answer the question, what do you think this source is important for a FUTURE historian, looking back on life during the pandemic? What does

it tell us and what questions does it open? You may draw on any course material to strengthen your analysis of the source.

You must also have:

1. A full citation
2. The necessary meta-data for entry into the Archive (I will show you how to find this in class)
3. A one paragraph description of the item for a public audience
4. A series of keywords to help the item be searchable
5. Please include the full citation and the link and/or an image of the source so that I can also see the source.

I will ask you to add your contributions to the crowd-sourced website "A Journal of the Plague Year: An Archive of COVID-19," <https://covid19.omeka.net/about>. This is not required but is strongly encouraged.