Course Project Instructions

The World Course Project

Each student will make a 2-minute presentation based on one story of your choice from The World radio program to be given in class between Weeks 7 and 15. Approximately 6 students will give their presentations each week (e.g., 3 students on Tuesday, 3 students on Thursday). Students will sign up for a slot during Week 2. This presentation should be structured as a formal presentation/speech, but you are encouraged to be creative. You are required to use visual aids, such as PowerPoint slides, and must include two maps: a reference map that locates the places of interest in your story and a thematic map related to the theme of your story. You may also include photographs, graphics, tables of data, audio or video clips. You may not run over the 2-minute time limit, so select your words and your visual aid(s) carefully. You may write out a script, use notecards, or any other method to assist your presentation. However, you should not read your presentation form the PowerPoint slides on the screen.

A. Instructions for The World Journal (DUE: 2 weeks before your presentation; hand-in through BB.)

Listen to several recent episodes of the audio program The World, a co-production of Public Radio International (PRI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and WGBH in Boston. You may listen on the radio (KCRW 89.9FM 12-1pm weekdays or KPCC 89.3FM 2-3 weekdays), online, or through podcasts (http://www.theworld.org/). Create a journal entry for six of the stories covered within the program. (The program typically covers about 10 stories per 50-minute show). Do not select all your stories from the same show. Select stories with geographical themes that describe something about a place and reflect on connections between places.

Prepare a journal entry for each story that includes the following:

1. A heading that identifies the date of the program and the title of the story. (Titles can be found on The World website under the “Archives” tab. (NOTE: the following information is NOT the title of the story: “PRI’s The World: 01/17/2013 (Sweden, Finland, Saudi Arabia)”; Rather “Military Operation Ends at Algerian Gas Facility with Uncertain Outcome” IS the title of a story).
2. 1-2 sentences that summarize the main point of the story.
3. Answers to the following questions about your story:
   a. What country or countries (or region of a country) is the focus of this news story?
   b. Which aspect of the traditions of geography is most important to the story? Select from one of the following traditions of geography: climate, landforms, ecosystems (physical systems); economic, political, cultural, urban systems (human systems); or nature’s impact on people, people’s impact on nature (human-environment interaction).
   c. What specific physical or human geographic characteristics of this place are relevant to the story?
   d. How is this country/region connected to other countries/regions? The interconnections may be historical, political, scientific, cultural, social, or economic. Explain how the countries are interconnected as discussed in the story.
e. How do the interconnections discussed in this story serve as an example of one of the following learning objectives? (Select one of the learning objectives below explain why your story is a good illustration of it.)
   i. Explain how these interconnections link your place to the United States and its interests.
   ii. Identify the ethical and moral questions involved in these connections.
   iii. Articulate global interconnections by describing a problem in the social or natural world in terms of collective remedies that transcend national borders.
   iv. Pose critical questions about power relations as they emerge from the dynamic interactions among global and local agents.

Select news stories that are good illustrations of at least one of the learning objectives above. If the story does not lend itself to an analysis of characteristics of specific locations and connections between locations, do not select it.

A minimum of 6 stories are required for the journal. My recommendation is that you listen to more than 6 stories (on more than one day) and select 6 that best fit the requirements for the presentation. When you turn in your journal identify the story about which you will make your presentation (select 1 of the 6). The stories must be from programs aired starting Jan 22, 2013 or more recently.

You will hand in your type-written journal entries through the Dropbox on BeachBoard. I will provide feedback prior to your presentation.

B. Instructions for The World Presentation (Sign up for date during Week 2 of class.)

Use your journal research to create the content for the presentation. The presentation will explain the historical, political, scientific, cultural, social, or economic interconnections between the place described in your story and other places. It will consist of a brief summary of the story and an explanation how this story illustrates one of the following:

- Explains how these interconnections link your place to the United States and its interests.
- Identifies the ethical and moral questions involved in these connections.
- Articulates global interconnections by describing a problem in the social or natural world in terms of collective remedies that transcend national borders.
- Poses critical questions about power relations as they emerge from the dynamic interactions among global and local agents.

Your grade is primarily based on how well you discuss the interconnections between places and how well you explain how your story exemplifies one of the learning objectives in the bullet point list above. You will also be evaluated on how well you use the maps to make your case. Do not try to cover all of the bullet points above in your presentation. Select 1 as the focus of your presentation. You must directly mention the learning objective illustrated by your story and explain how the story is a good example of the learning objective in your presentation.
Locating maps – See the Weekly Calendar on the Syllabus for the library class session.

Use the information below to locate reference maps, and thematic maps. Maps should be incorporated into your slides as an inserted image. Save online maps as images and insert them into your PowerPoint file. You may also take digital photos of paper maps and insert them into your presentation file.

For both the reference and thematic maps, sure to use maps dated from 2000 or more recent years unless the point of your story warrants using a historical map.

Reference maps: Remember that reference maps illustrate geographic features such as country boundaries, cities, roads, and physical features (e.g., rivers) to represent what you see on the ground. See Country Watch, CIA World Factbook, BBC, NY Times, free online map resources, reference atlases, National Geographic magazine, and The World website’s supplementary materials to find one for your story (see also library information below).

Thematic maps: Thematic maps display a theme. They match statistical data to geographical units. For this assignment, you will locate a thematic map that compares the country from The World story you have selected with other countries. Select a thematic map that fits with the theme of the story and provides information that compares your country to other countries and thus informs you about the relationship between your country and other countries.

Some suggested resources for finding thematic maps that compare countries follow. These atlases are available in the reference section of the CSULB library or are on reserve for 3-hour check out from the library circulation desk. (See information from the library session.)

Examples and Guidelines

Maps and captions. Make sure that you select a story from The World radio program for which you can find a thematic map that compares countries based on a theme related to your story. For example, if your story is about the regulation of music on the radio in Venezuela, you could find a map from The Penguin Atlas of Media and Information (like the one on the next page) to set Venezuela in the context of the degree of freedom of the press around the world. Make sure to provide the title and source of the map as a caption under the image on your PowerPoint slide. Be sure to discuss what the map shows in your presentation with statements like: “This thematic map illustrates the difference between media freedom in Venezuela and other countries in North and South America. Note how Venezuela is not the worst offender in South America, but media is more regulated than in the US and Canada.”

To access a picture of a thematic map from the atlases on reserve in the library, you may take a photo of the map with a digital camera or your phone’s camera and insert it into a PowerPoint document. If you right click on the image, you will be able to use the picture tools to enlarge the size and crop the photo so it fits nicely in your slide.
Below is an example of a **REFERENCE MAP** that shows the location of Venezuela in relation to the rest of South America.

Below is an example of a THEMATIC MAP that compares countries based on the theme of The World radio program. Note the title and source in the caption.