Cultural Encounter Projects

There are two projects due this semester. The assignment is identical for both. The subject is different.

This is a research, field work, and writing project. You have some choices to make.

For HUM 2210 everyone must visit an art museum/ gallery or architectural (details below).
For the other assignment you may chose one of three options: attend a live performance of a play; OR attend a religious institution/service; OR visit the Renaissance Festival in Tampa and focus on the musical group Craq’d or Cu Dubb (bag pipes and drums). You will then write up your experience. In all instances you will research and be well-prepared ahead of your visit. You may do the assignments in either order.

For HUM 2230 everyone must attend a live performance of a play. For the other assignment you may chose one of three options: visit an art museum/ gallery or architectural (details below); attend a religious institution/service; OR visit the Renaissance Festival in Tampa and focus on the musical group Craq’d or Cu Dubb (bag pipes and drums). You will then write up your experience. In all instances you will research and be well-prepared ahead of your visit. You may do the assignments in either order.

The final product is a three (3) page write up with prep material and bibliography.

1. Do some research to make your selection. Select your play/museum and tell Dr. Thompson your choice. If you decide to change your selection you must inform Dr. Thompson well ahead of the due date.

SELECTING: You have some freedom in selecting your subject within these parameters: 1) It must be something you visit and experience during this semester. 2) You must choose something that is produced/connected locally. 3) You may choose something that is produced by HCC (any HCC campus) In fact I encourage you to find something that allows you to take advantage of your student ID. 4) For the museum it must be an art museum or gallery. MOSI and the Tampa Bay History Museum are not acceptable for this assignment. 5) For architecture you may only choose from these three locations: the Plant Hotel (University of Tampa); The Tampa Theatre (1926 movie theatre); The Ringling House in Sarasota. 6) For Theatre, I really don’t care what the play is as long as it is scripted, produced by a college, semi-professional or professional company, and in a smallish performance space. College level productions are encouraged. High School, and community theatre productions are not acceptable for this assignment. For the play do not choose the big truck and bus tours in the Straz Center Main stage. Those productions are excellent and frequently well-worth the money but they tend to be so large and processed that a connection with the audience is sometimes difficult. For our purposes I want you to see something up close. Do realize that the Straz has five theatres and that some really excellent work is being done by local artists (Jobsite Theatre Company) in some of the smallest spaces there. For the art there are many galleries and museums, big and small, in the area from which to choose. Look for something that allows you to get near the art. Look for experiences that let you in for free or greatly reduced admission because of your student I.D.

2. You must have 5 resources. From this you will create a Bibliography.

For the museum/architecture assignment I require that you find information about location and group, current exhibits, and artists/local biographies/backgrounds. For the play assignment I require that you get some research about the local theatre, the play you’ll see, some biographic info on the playwright, and maybe some previous productions of that play.

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3. After you’ve researched your choice, write up five expectations. Also write up five questions you’ll ask. Let me re-emphasize AFTER you’ve done your research think about what you are going to experience. Your expectations might be related to what you’ve read about the location, its setting, display or production elements; what you think the play or museum might look like or sound like. Contact the location ahead of time. See if there are opportunities to talk with someone connected with the event. Many times plays will provide “Talk Backs” on particular nights. Museums have docents who volunteer their time to talk with patrons about the art and the museum. Some locals are better at this than others but generally speaking these people have put a lot of time and effort into their work and they are happy to talk with people about their art and their own experiences.

4. Visit with Dr. Thompson at this point. Show your research (bibliography), your expectations, questions and evidence of preparative contact.
   We will schedule a day in class to talk about these things. This must be done face to face. You’re prep materials must be typed up for this conversation. I will not collect this material I will simply examine and comment on the material.

5. Make your visit – ask questions, learn what you can at that event. Be sure to observe and describe the place and what you see happening there.
   Pay attention to the environment, the lighting, the sounds, the types of people present, what people are wearing, the space immediately outside the location.

6. Write up a 3 page summary of your experience. (Typed, double-spaced, etc.)
   Rather than try to tell everything you observed focus on one aspect that struck you. DO not give me a summary of the play or a history of the artist. Do NOT give me a review of the event, exhibit or the play. I am not interested in value judgments; I am interested in your observations.

When due, you will hand me a stapled document that includes:
   1. Your Report (Typed, double-spaced, proper margins)
   2. Your Prep work: Questions; Expectations; Bibliography (properly formatted)
   3. You must include some attendance documentation i.e. a ticket stub from the event.

Format: For this assignment you should use the formatting style which is appropriate to your discipline (MLA, APA or Chicago) Remember that the HCC Success Center (BACA 207) is available to help you with formatting questions and to help with the technical aspects of the research paper. I will provide them with a copy of this assignment and you should bring these instructions with you to any appointment you make with the Success Center.

Be prepared to discuss your experience in class. You will not do a formal presentation but in an informal discussion we’ll talk about the experiences.