Hello A1795’ers,

During section today I gave you all details of how the presentations are to be conducted. I wanted to state this again in email form so that you have something to refer back to that gives all the relevant information.

On Monday, April 20th, the course enters a new phase which will last until the conclusion of class on May 1st. The sessions on April 20th, 24th, 27th and on May 1st are designed to allow us to discuss the projects you are working on. In order for us to organize whose projects we focus on and when, under the Scheduler on Canvas there are listed four events that correspond to the dates above. All students should select one available slot on one of the dates listed, as it will be during this time that we discuss your presentation.

The presentation sessions will not themselves contain a presentation, but will rather be an opportunity for us to discuss as a group the video presentation you will each make. You will, however, be required to briefly contextualize your project during this class session prior to our discussion. We would like for students to individually watch mutually produced video presentations prior to the class, so that we can make best use of the time we have for discussion.

For an example of how a presentation on research might be rendered as a video, look to things such as the combined presentation video made for Death without Weeping. Imagine you are presenting in class, create slides or other visual aids that might enliven your presentation, and then record audio of yourself making your presentation. This audio track can then be used as the basis for a video constructed from the images/slides you made. Simple editing software (Movie Make/iMovie) can then be used to combine these into a single film.

The film you produce should be 8 minutes at an **absolute** maximum. With 8 people presenting during each session you will all be required to watch up to 64 minutes of video prior to the class, so please keep this in mind and edit judiciously. Your video should be uploaded to the course’s Youtube account 48 hours before the class in which we will discuss your work. For Monday’s that means getting it in by Saturday at noon and for Friday’s by Wednesday at noon. The videos can be uploaded to the following Youtube account:

Username/email: Anthropology1795@gmail.com

Password:

The password is case sensitive and does include the question mark.

If people are have any technical issues during the editing process, by all means contact either myself or Professor Laserna. Professor Laserna is more comfortable with Macs, while I am more comfortable with PC. That being said, I can do my best to help if you have issues on Mac and you see me during my office hours. Remember, Google is your friend when it comes to things like editing. There are large numbers of videos, blog posts, etc. that will likely answer any questions you might have. lynda.com is also a source of tutorials concerning a vast amount of software and is something I believe you all have access to through Harvard. Lastly, I believe Lamont Library has some form of media lab usually staffed by a very tech-savvy person who might also be a possible source of help.

Soooo, to cut a long story short(er), here is the schedule of a hypothetical A1795 student over the next few weeks:

* Select a free slot to discuss your presentation (earlier will give you more chance to incorporate ideas and is thus suitable for people struggling to narrow their focus, while later might better serve those who want more feedback on interpretations).
* Continue working of the final project.
* Approximately 4 days prior to your slot, start working on an 8 minute video that documents the stage you are at. Include questions that you would like to discuss within this.
* Complete the 8 minute> film and upload it to our course Youtube page at least 48 hours prior to the session.
* Watch any other presentations online that will be discussed at the upcoming session.
* Attend the session, give a brief 2 minute overview for the class, and then we can discuss what we found of interest and make suggestions concerning how it might be tweaked.
* ???
* Profit

My apologies for this having turned into such a long email. I hope it has made things clearer rather than more complicated.

All the best,

Max

[TF] The Politics of Language and Identity in Latin America