**Midterm Project | On Water**

This take-home exam project requires you to apply your learning from across our syllabus units of our studies, including not only readings but also content from our guests and class discussion. This midterm consists of a written essay and a presentation.

**WRITTEN MIDTERM**

**Part One | On Water**

Working with your choice of text arguments and specific selections that most stir you, you are to create an analysis that might answer the following questions:

* What can water, in the ways that we recreate or participate in water’s sporting practices, tell us about change?
* When and how does water constitute what kind of body/material freedoms?
* How might our sport relationships with water illuminate different kinds of change actors or agencies?

Ultimately, this midterm asks that you uptake a water-based sport subject to develop an original argument about bodies and materiality. While your concentration may focus on social discourse, relationships and identities involved in water access and aquatic participation, you are also asked to contemplate what the challenges of *new materialism* (*post-humanism*) that our studies involved might mean.

As you attempt to answer these questions, you should ultimately arrive at an inquiry that allows you to consider our (mis)understanding of culture/nature, of bodies/things, and the implications.

Papers should demonstrate a direct engagement with our studies. Your aim is to open a space of dialogue between the scholarship and/or to an offshoot applied study area of your own choosing. We are looking for applied and creative knowledge rather than recitation or book review like summation of our studies.

While the midterm focus is to be drawn upon our course studies, to be sure, you may pursue and incorporate extended readings beyond the scope of the syllabus.Ask how you might build upon or contest the scholarship we have shared by looking at other WATER and sporting moments, norms, cultures or practices.

Please prepare written arguments of 1200-1700 word length. Alternative visual engagement or media creations are welcome.

**Be daring. Do *creatively title* your work.**

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**MIDTERM PRESENTATION**

**Part Two | On Water**

For the presentation portion of this midterm, please come to class prepared to lead a short (1-2 minutes max) but sharp preview of your most interesting, innovative or strongest argument. Visuals are welcomed but not required. Please NO READING of your short class address. Just speak casually and to/with us.

As you consider what to share from your midterm work, perhaps reflect upon your choice of scholarship to-date this semester to consider what has most inspired or challenged you. What caused you to wrestle? Which scholarship most influenced a growth point? Be specific in identifying an argument point of view or concepts that opened up newness and/or partially remain fuzzy.

Please prepare your thoughts so that you can speak fluidly without reading in this short, personal statement of learning.

**Due | 13 October**

**All midterms must be submitted via TurnitIn at the beginning of class on the due date.**