HUMN 220 Midterm Essay

Assignment
Write an essay of 1000 words that analytically reflects on your work in the course thus far. You may discuss a variety of things including but not limited to your participation during class time, your work in your project group, and your engagement with the readings and slideshows. A great way to focus and organize your essay is to return to your Reading & Viewing Journal and develop your work there.

A reflection becomes analytical when it does more than discuss experiences in term of like/dislike or agree/disagree binaries. That is, don’t just say that you liked something or disagreed with something. Instead, take time to discuss specific details from the texts and slideshows. These details—your discussion of particular art objects or quotes from texts—are the evidence you provide to support your claim about what you’ve learned so far this semester.

You might include images from our slideshows, your group project, or of pages from your Reading & Viewing Journal. Including images is not required, however.

Finally, this essay is a chance for you to think about what you’ve achieved so far this semester, what has been motivating you, and where you want to go from here.

Grading
I will consider the following areas when grading the midterm essay:

Claim: Does the essay make a clear and compelling claim? This claim should not just be “I have learned a lot this semester.” A more compelling claim would be specific about what you’ve learned—identify a major theme or question that you see as significant to the course.

Support: What details does the essay provide in support of that claim? Discuss details from slideshows and from literary texts. Take time to carefully talk about the examples you provide; being specific and clear in your examples does a lot to demonstrate that you actually have learned something thus far. How well do the details work together and support the main claim?

Analysis: How well does the essay go beyond like/dislike or agree/disagree binaries? (Having a compelling claim and clear evidence will help you with this.)

Style: Does the essay use clear, engaging language? Does it have a logical organization?

Points: The Midterm Essay is worth 100 points.

Format: 1-inch margins; 10-12 pt regular font

Due: Tuesday 3/21 12:30 pm, submitted through Blackboard as a pdf.
**Grading Rubric:**

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<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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