

Masculinity in Magazines Instructions and Rubric

This document contains an overview of the project, a description of the four assignments, frequently asked questions, and a rubric.

Overview

Important Dates:

When and Where	Assignment Type	Assignment	% of Grade
Sunday, February 5, 11:59pm, on Canvas	Building-block	Topic and analysis plan	5%
Sunday, February 26, 11:59pm, on Canvas	Building-block	Article summaries and theory/concept selection	10%
Friday, March 24, 10:00am, on Canvas	Final product	Analytical paper	15%
Friday, March 24, 10:00am, via survey	Evaluation	Peer and self evaluation	5%

Purpose:

One of the objectives of our course is for you to be able to use theory on masculinities to analyze primary sources. In this assignment, you will work with a team to analyze the portrayal of masculinity in a men’s magazine.

Through this assignment, you will practice the following skills:

- Apply key theories and concepts within the field to primary sources
- Convey research findings in writing

Task:

The final product for this project is a paper that analyzes articles from men’s magazines about the topic of your choice (e.g., fitness, fashion, sports, actors, nutrition, parenting) and explains how masculinity is represented in them. Your analysis should connect what you find with key theories and concepts from our course (e.g., hegemonic masculinity, intersectionality, embodiment). In addition to the final paper, there are two building-block assignments and a peer and self evaluation.

The Four Assignments

1. Topic and analysis plan - due by February 5, 11:59pm, on Canvas

With your team, select a topic commonly discussed in men’s magazines. For example, you might choose: fitness, fashion, sports, acting/actors, nutrition, parenting, music/musicians, technology,

or hobbies. This is not an exhaustive list, and you are welcome to choose something not listed here. It's a good idea to browse men's magazines to see what topics they commonly cover.

Then choose a plan for selecting articles. The number of articles you analyze should be equal to the number of people in your group (e.g., if there are five people in your group, you should include five articles in your analysis). You may select articles from GQ, Men's Health, and/or Esquire, all of which are available online through the UCI Libraries (see the Frequently Asked Questions for how to access them). The focus of these magazines vary slightly, so make sure you do some research about them before making your plan. If you are interested in how men's magazines represent your topic today, you might select the most recent articles. If you are interested in how men's magazines have represented your topic over time, you might select articles from different decades. If you are interested in how men's magazines vary in how they represent your topic, you might select articles from several different magazines. You should not attempt to do all of these analyses. Pick one based on your interests!

This assignment is graded based on completion.

Turn in via Canvas: A Microsoft Word document that:

1. Describes the topic your team has chosen and why you are interested in it (1 paragraph);
2. Describes your plan for selecting articles and why you have chosen it (1 paragraph);
3. Includes [in-text citations](#) and a [reference list](#) of your sources in ASA style, if needed.

2. Article summaries and theory/concept selection - due by February 26, 11:59pm, on Canvas

With your team, summarize your selected articles. Remember, the number of articles you analyze should be equal to the number of people in your group (e.g., if there are five people in your group, you should include five articles in your analysis). Each article summary should be one paragraph.

Then describe which key theories and concepts in our course (e.g., hegemonic masculinity, intersectionality, embodiment) you plan to use in your final analysis. Explain why your chosen theories and/or concepts are relevant to the articles you analyze.

This assignment is graded based on completion.

Turn in via Canvas: A Microsoft Word document that:

1. Summarizes your selected articles (1 paragraph per article);
2. Identifies relevant theories and concepts to be used in your final analysis and justifies your choice (1 paragraph);
3. Includes [in-text citations](#) and a [reference list](#) of your sources in ASA style. You will need to cite your chosen magazine articles and the key theories and concepts you have selected.

3. Analytical paper - due by March 24, by 10:00am, on Canvas

With your team, first describe your topic and method for selecting articles. Explain why your topic is interesting and justify your selection method. State what question(s) your team was hoping to answer using these articles. (Much of this can be revised from the topic and analysis plan assignment!)

Next, provide a high-level summary of the articles you analyzed. Explain, in general, what these articles discussed.

Then, compare and contrast the articles. Do the articles portray your topic similarly? Are there any differences in how the topic is portrayed? What kind(s) of masculinity are represented in the articles? What do these articles tell the reader about what masculinity is or should be? Provide short quotes from articles as evidence of your claims.

Finally, connect what you've found to theories and concepts from our course. Use your chosen theories and concepts to help the reader understand the representation of your topic and masculinity in the magazine articles. Do your findings align with these theories and concepts, or do your magazine articles contradict the theories and concepts?

See the rubric at the end of this document to see how this assignment is graded.

Turn in via Canvas: A Microsoft Word document that:

1. Introduces your topic, justifies your selection method, and articulates a research question (1-2 paragraphs);
2. Provides a high-level summary of your articles (1 paragraph);
3. Compares and contrasts your articles in terms of their representation of your chosen topic and of masculinity (2-3 paragraphs);
4. Explains your findings using key theories and concepts from our course (2-3 paragraphs);
5. Includes [in-text citations](#) and a [reference list](#) of your sources in ASA style. You will need to cite your chosen magazine articles and the key theories and concepts you have selected.

4. Peer and self evaluation form - due by March 24, by 10:00am, via [this survey](#)

Each member of your group will submit a peer and self evaluation, which will figure into your personal grade for the project. Team members will be evaluated for their preparation, their communication and participation, their teamwork, and whether they helped the group excel. You should complete this once all work for your analytical paper is done.

Frequently Asked Questions

Formatting

Q: How should our written assignments be formatted?

A: Your written assignments should be double-spaced, use 12pt Times New Roman font, and have 1” margins. Make sure to include all group members’ names and a title. All assignments should be in paragraph-form (no bullet points!).

Q: Do we need a reference page?

A: Yes. Begin your references list on a new page at the end of your assignment, titled “References.” References should be formatted using ASA style and should be listed in alphabetical order.

Grading

Q: How will our assignments be graded?

A: The first two assignments are graded on completion. The rubric for the analytical paper can be found at the end of this document. For the peer and self evaluation, I will assign you a teamwork score based on your and your teammates’ feedback.

Q: How do we view your feedback on our graded assignments?

Feedback on your assignments can be viewed in Canvas. Click Grades, then find the assignment. If I provided you with an overall comment, you can access it by clicking on the comment icon to the right of the assignment (circled in pink in [this picture](#)). You can see more detailed feedback by clicking on the name of the assignment, then View Feedback (circled in pink in [this picture](#)).

Late Work/Extensions

Q: My team can’t submit an assignment by the deadline. What should we do?

A: If your team requires an extension for any of the assignments, you may request an extension of up to seven days by going to <https://tinyurl.com/carianextension>. After filling out the form, your extension request is automatically granted. I may follow up if I need additional information; otherwise, you will not receive any confirmation.

Q: What if my team fills out an extension request but we don’t submit our assignment within seven days?

A: Your team will receive a zero on the assignment.

Accessing the Magazines

Q: How do I access the three source magazines?

A: You can access all three magazines online through UCI Libraries. You must be connected to UCI wifi or using the VPN, and be signed into your UCI account to access this content. Here are permalinks to each magazine: [GO](#), [Men’s Health](#), [Esquire](#). After clicking the link, scroll down to the options to “View Online.”

Rubric

	Exemplary (5)	Accomplished (4-3)	Developing (2-1)	Beginning (0)
Introduction	Clearly articulates the research topic and question and justifies the article selection method.	Mostly clearly articulates the research topic and question and justifies the article selection method.	Somewhat clearly articulates the research topic and question and justifies the article selection method.	Does not clearly articulate the research topic and question and/or justify the article selection method.
High-Level Summary	Effectively and concisely summarizes all articles.	Summary of articles is mostly effective and concise.	Summary of articles is somewhat effective and concise.	Summary of articles is not effective and/or concise.
Comparison of Articles	Clearly explains similarities and differences across articles related to how the topic and masculinity are represented. Quotes are always used effectively as evidence.	Mostly clearly explains similarities and differences across articles related to how the topic and masculinity are represented. Quotes are mostly used effectively as evidence.	Somewhat clearly explains similarities and differences across articles related to how the topic and masculinity are represented. Quotes are sometimes used effectively as evidence.	Does not explain similarities and differences across articles related to how the topic and masculinity are represented. Quotes are not used effectively as evidence.
Connection to Key Theories and Concepts	Applies relevant theories and concepts to findings. Theories and concepts are always used accurately. Analysis reflects in-depth sociological knowledge.	Applies relevant theories and concepts to findings. Theories and concepts are mostly used accurately. Analysis mostly reflects in-depth sociological knowledge.	Applies relevant theories and concepts to findings. Theories and concepts are sometimes used accurately. Some of the analysis reflects in-depth sociological knowledge.	Theories and concepts are not relevant. Theories and concepts are not used accurately. Analysis reflects superficial sociological knowledge.
	Exemplary (3)	Accomplished (2)	Developing (1)	Beginning (0)
References and In-Text Citations	References are in ASA format. In-text citations are always used when appropriate and properly formatted.	References are in ASA format, but there are some errors. In-text citations are mostly used when appropriate and mostly	References are in ASA format, but there are several errors. In-text citations are sometimes used when appropriate and sometimes	References are not in ASA format or are absent. In-text citations are not used when appropriate and/or improperly formatted.

		properly formatted.	properly formatted.	
Formatting	The assignment conforms to all of the formatting requirements (double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins).	The assignment does not conform to one of the formatting requirements (double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins).	The assignment does not conform to two of the formatting requirements (double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins).	The assignment does not conform to three of the formatting requirements (double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins).

Total Points: _____ / 26