



“Only through reconnecting with nature, culture, spirituality, beauty, art and craft can we stride towards freedom from the tyranny of money, materialism and mass production, which have separated us from our communities and alienated us from the Earth.” – Satish Kumar

“The opposite of war isn’t peace – it’s creation.” – line from *Rent*

“Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine.” – Henry David Thoreau

Learning Objectives:

1. “Present a creative project that synthesizes and interprets information collected from various disciplines.”
2. “Illustrate how one’s perception of time and place impacts attitudes and behaviors toward the natural world.”

Due Date: December 3

Grade-Point Value: 200 points, 20% of final grade (see scoring rubric on reverse side)

Instructions: Your assignment is three-fold:

1. Create a piece of art that engages our “Time and Environment” course theme;
2. Write a short, personal essay explaining how your art “synthesizes” the artistic, scientific, and socio-cultural approaches to our “Time and Environment” course theme; and
3. Exhibit your project to the class.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. **The artwork** should either be **fabricated from at least one sustainable component** (including recycled parts, as a quilt or “found art” sculpture might) or directly **express a message about the need for an experience of time that promotes a sustainability ethic** (as a song or a poem might).
2. **Your creative process** should include conscious invocation of certain attitudes, which you will describe in your personal essay, including:
 - **Perspectives of time** you learned about this semester that may be different from your “norm.”
 - **Awareness of shifting from consumer to artist**, as explained by Satish Kumar in his “Art for Earth’s Sake” essay (Canvas), moving *away* from “being mere consumers of goods and services,” and *toward* “a state where we humans are active participants in the process of life in the making of things which are beautiful, useful, and durable.”
3. **The short, personal essay** (approximately 500 words) **should**
 - **Be organized around a thesis, stated in the first paragraph, that answers these three questions, establishing your “synthesis” of our course’s interdisciplinary focus:**
 - **Art perspective:** What is the title of your piece, and what art medium does it represent?
 - **Scientific perspective:** How does your art represent scientific concepts of environmental sustainability?
 - **Socio-cultural perspective:** What concepts of time perspective learned this semester did you experience, imagine, or attempt to represent in your creative work? *Optional addition:* Does your art derive from any socio-cultural artistic tradition?

¹ Image from Microsoft Office.

- Use appropriate terminology to describe applicable scientific and socio-cultural concepts, as learned from the textbook, lectures, and handouts² such as
 - Cunningham & Cunningham’s *Principles of Environmental Science* glossary
 - “Introduction to Culture, Activity Orientation, & Worldviews”
 - “Cultural Perspectives on Time”
4. **Artist statement:** On an index card to be displayed with your art, include your name, the title of the piece, a brief summary of your “synthesis” thesis, described above, and any other information about the piece that you want viewers to consider as they examine your work.

SCORING RUBRIC

Scoring Criteria	Points Possible (200 total)
<p><i>The project is timely completed and presented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Artwork itself meets stated guidelines. ○ Index-card “Artist’s Statement” includes all required detail. ○ Personal essay meets required minimum length. ○ All components of the project are submitted on time. 	20
<p><i>“Illustrate how one’s perception of time and place impacts attitudes and behaviors toward the natural world.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The artwork itself demonstrates imagination, creative ability, and self-expression of an experience of time and place that promotes or illustrates a sustainability ethic. 	100
<p><i>“Present a creative project that synthesizes and interprets information collected from various disciplines.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The personal essay clearly demonstrates the student’s productive synthesis of the artistic, scientific (environmental sustainability), and socio-cultural (time) perspectives of the course theme. ○ Scientific and socio-cultural concepts are articulated in proper terminology, drawing from relevant course materials. 	60
<p><i>Project presentation demonstrates college-level professionalism in all regards:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art is carefully detailed. ○ Essay is effectively organized around required thesis. ○ Source materials are documented in MLA or APA format ○ Ideas are expressed in proper sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation, using concise word choices. 	20

² Please cite original sources identified in these handouts.