Report 3 – Module 3 – 15% – Due Dates: 5 and 12/NOV/2008
UTSC- NMED20H3 Theory and Practice of New Media, Fall 2008
Course Lecturer: Gita Hashemi

The goal of this assignment is to get you on the way in researching for your senior project proposal. Your tasks are:

1) Articulate specific concepts and themes that will be used in your senior project.
2) Find an **academic** book, a chapter in a book or an article that relates to the concepts, subjects or methods you envision for your senior project.
3) Read and understand its **theoretical arguments** and methodological or practical approaches (if any).
4) Relate this to your senior project and use it to develop the **theoretical framework for your work**.

This assignment has to be submitted in 2 stages:

Stage 1: Concepts and Themes – Due: 5/NOV/2008 by 8 a.m. on Course Wiki
To complete this stage, you must post **2 or more concepts** and **1 or more themes** on the course wiki in the section for Module 3. These are what you find interesting and relevant to the work you would like to do in your senior project. Follow the instructions on the wiki for posting these.

Stage 2: Research, Annotation, Theoretical Framework – Due: 12/NOV/2008 by 8 a.m. on Course Wiki
To complete this stage you must:

1) Find an **academic article or book chapter** that proposes or discusses theories related to your selected concepts and/or themes.
2) Write a **100-word annotation** (include a word count at the end) and the bibliographic reference (don't include this in your word count) and post it on the course wiki as instructed.
3) Write a 400-500-word essay in which you a) briefly **discuss the theory and arguments** advanced in the article; b) **connect these to your own work** in your senior project; and c) most importantly, **develop a preliminary theoretical framework** (means this is a starting point and you can modify it later) for your senior project. These are the tasks that you have to perform but you don't have to do them in that order. Use your word space to **focus on the substance**. You do not need elaborate and/or redundant introduction and conclusion. This essay must be posted on the course wiki as instructed there.

NOTES AND EXAMPLES:

- **What is an annotation?** Please study the following guides:
  http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/
  http://www.library.appstate.edu/reference/howTo/annotations.html
- **A concept is a mental construct:** it is an abstract, organizing idea rather than a specific instance. Examples: *digitalization; remediation*; *representation; strategy.*
- **A theme is usually two or more concepts in relationship to one another.** Examples: *digital remediation*; *representational strategy*; or a more complex example, *the impacts of digital remediation on representational strategies.*
- **A theoretical framework is an essay that proposes a structure** for connecting/relating ideas, concepts and theories about a particular research interest. It is like a blueprint, a map, that uses already existing theories to set directions for answering a question or solving a problem or exploring a topic. For more on theoretical frameworks, look at:
  http://www.analytictech.com/mb313/elements.htm
  http://cbdd.wsu.edu/edev/NetTOM_ToT/Resources/Other/TOM614/page35.htm
- **What to look for when you look for a source? What is an academic source?**
    This source should help you develop a theoretical framework for your senior project. It is therefore best to look for sources that do not just give you statistics and data but substantially discuss theories and concepts. An academic source is a book or a chapter of a book that is published by an **academic publisher**, or an article from a reputable, ideally peer reviewed **academic journal**. If you are in doubt about whether your source is academic, talk to a librarian or myself.

Please try to complete both components of this assignment by the stated deadlines. There will be a reduction of 3 points per day or fraction thereof from the total assignment mark for lateness of any component.