

MDLAB 2019

Final Project Guidelines

Your final project is a critical research-grounded investigation into an aspect of **Arab media, civic activism, social justice and human rights, and is focused on the concepts of “media literacy of the oppressed and designing for/with the margins”**—the way you interpret and understand these concepts.

You are free to choose your topic. The project should have (1) a text output that briefly discusses the topic and the problem dealt with, shows the analysis concisely, and offers a proposal for civic action and emancipatory solutions, and (2) a video output that summarizes/packages the project and works as a PSA (public service announcement). The project must contain sufficiently researched and well-written and produced content. Your topic must relate to concepts that are brought up in the academy but be narrow and specific and relevant to the Arab world and an oppressed community, with the aim of helping them emancipate themselves through media literacy.

Essentially, you will be performing a **critique** on the topic of your choice, including both some sort of "literature review" and some original content you created, whether through the critiquing images or videos, or creating digital media pieces that help a specific oppressed community become media literate and help emancipate itself. Your overarching goal is to **champion or address a social justice issue of an oppressed community with innovative media literacy solutions** by combining previous literature/knowledge and original critical analysis into a coherent package that provides a well-rounded explanation of the issues and emancipatory solutions.

The digital squad will be able to help with technical production matters and the faculty with theoretical and research guidance.

Deadlines and milestone:

- **Wednesday June 19:** Final project introduced to students, division of groups, develop topic, define oppressed community, and conduct “literature review” (previous research). Assignment of faculty and digital squad members to teams.
- **Thursday June 20:** Finalize final project outline and details, finalize “literature review” (previous research), conduct critical analysis, and develop emancipatory solutions. Start work on packaging (video).
- **Friday June 21:** Finalize critical analysis and emancipatory solutions. Finalize packaging (video). Plan to work late today.
- **Saturday June 22:** Put final touches and rehearse presentation. Present (only 5-6 minutes per group).