

# Critical Approaches to *Buffy* Final Project

eng 3060j / summer 2018 / ohio university / chang



Think back to the questions asked at the beginning of the quarter: Why is *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* important? Why is popular culture important? How might we read, consider, and write about *Buffy* and popular culture to theorize race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, time, and place? And how might *Buffy* and popular culture help us think about bodies, identities, performativities to critique and challenge norms, ideals, and other ideologies? We have read a wide range of texts, explored different authors' worlds, and worked through critical scholarship—now to create from and with what we have discovered.

## Mix and Mash

For this assignment, we will borrow and use the “mash-up” and the “mix” from the domains of computers, media, and music in order to imagine and produce a unique kind of writing project. The “mash-up” is the combining, blending, and layering of different texts, sources, even genres to produce a ‘new’ text (sampling, heavy metal mashed with pop, *Harry Potter* and *The Sound of Music*). The “mix” is the selecting and arranging of texts to produce a collection, usually organized around some theme or feature or narrative (80s mixes, dance mixes, road trip mixes). The best mixes and mashes have a central idea, argument, or goal in mind.

Your final project can be both a mix and a mash: 1) you will identify a **critical question, claim, or concept** that will frame and organize your project, focusing on critical approaches to *Buffy*; 2) your claim should **demonstrate** your engagement with the readings, theories, and ideas raised by the course, 3) you will develop a paper (preferably multimodal or multimedia) or project (which also includes academic writing) that explores, illuminates, represents, and analyzes your organizing claim, 4) you will organize an **academic bibliography** with at least **five additional** recent, relevant, and useful sources (not counting our class texts). Your final project might take the form of (not an end-all-be-all list):

- a more traditional 7-10 page research paper that could include multimodal examples or evidence (e.g. episode stills, drawings, images, verse)
- a research paper “remediated” into a shareable Power Point or Prezi presentation that includes multimodal examples or evidence suitable for a 15-20 minute academic talk
- an analysis and demonstration of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* via a episode guide, podcast, comic, even “how to” video, which includes a researched and analytical “artist’s statement” or “project statement” (of at least 1500 words)
- a media artifact, such as a short film, animation, recording, web page, digital game, which includes a researched and analytical “artist’s statement” or “project statement” (of at least 1500 words)

The most successful projects will have a clear frame and specific organizing analytic, will use different kinds of support and evidence, and will demonstrate media studies principles, methodologies, materials, and concerns. Overall, be creative, take intellectual risks, and have fun.

## Guidelines and Due Dates

**Outcomes:** all ENG 3060J Course Outcomes

**Format:** 7-10 pages, academic paper OR the equivalent project (images do not count toward pages)  
Papers should follow MLA conventions, citation and bibliographic format, use 12-point Times Roman, 1” margins, double-spacing, proper heading and name block, page numbers, and single-sided printing, neatly stapled together  
Mixed media projects should be neat, complete, preferably easily digitally shared, include academic inquiry, analysis, and writing (of at least 1500 words)  
Papers or projects must have complete academic bibliographies

**Draft Due:** Monday, August 6, uploaded to Blackboard and to your Google peer review folder, by 11:59 PM

**Final Due:** Saturday, August 18, via Blackboard, by 11:59 PM, if your Final Project cannot be uploaded to Bb (i.e. large file, different formats), please make other arrangements with Dr. Chang