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The following are a series of scaffolded assignments that led to the creation of “Labyrinths of Times,” an online digital project: <http://labyrinth.english.lmu.build/>

# Walking the Labyrinth Short Essay & Photograph

Due **September 19**

# Instructions

All students (as individuals) are required to do the following assignment:

* Walk the labyrinth in LMU’s Garden of Slow Time located on the bluff behind O'Malley Hall.
* Take a photograph (with your phone) of the labyrinth in a way that illustrates your experience. This might mean taking a photo of the labyrinth from a certain angle, taking a close up shot of something around the labyrinth, etc.
* Write a 2-3 page essay about your experience (see prompt below).

**Turn in:** In a single Word doc include your **short essay** and your **photograph.** Upload to Brightspace/Assignments/Labyrinth Assignment 1

# Essay Prompt

Consider the labyrinth’s relation to time, on different levels:

* How would you describe your experience of time while walking the labyrinth?
* How could the path, "Ariadne's thread," be understood as a metaphor for time and/or life?
* What are the main characteristics or patterns of the path? How could those elements be interpreted as models for time? Or, what image or idea of time is expressed by the path?
* How does your photograph illustrate your experience?

# Labyrinths in Nature and Art & Photograph

Due **October 3**

# Instructions

All students (as individuals) are required to find a natural object or a piece of art *or* make a piece of art that represents a labyrinth. If you choose an existing piece of art, photograph only the aspect of the piece that is labyrinth-like.

The representation is not expected to be literal; instead it should be an object/piece that has similar features and qualities of a labyrinth, as you understand them.

**Photograph** the object or art piece and write a **short explanation** (2-3 paragraphs) about what makes it a labyrinth, e.g. how does it relate to your understanding of them after having completed assignment 1? The photograph can be taken with your phone and needs to be quality, e.g. the lighting needs to be bright enough and even so that the object can clearly be seen.

**Turn in** a Word doc with your **short explanation** and upload your **photograph** as a separate file. Upload to Brightspace/Assignments/Labyrinth Assignment 2

# Assignment 2 Prep (in class exercise):

Based on your experience in assignment 1, what are the features and qualities of a labyrinth?

**Labyrinths Short Essay**

Due **October 24**

# Instructions

Working with your **group**:

* Write a 3 to 4 page analytical or creative (or both) essay on the concept of time.
* Choose one of the images you created in *assignment* 2. This image will be at the top of your group’s digital labyrinth page.

**Turn in** a Word doc with your **essay** and upload your **photograph** as a separate file. Upload to Brightspace/Assignments/Labyrinth Assignment 3

# Essay Prompt

What is time? For your essay, you will be exploring and contemplating this question. Your essays, once reduced in length (for assignment 4), will live within the digital labyrinth created for class. The text you write will invite visitors to contemplate time through your lens, your interpretation. Your image, the one you select from assignment two, will also evoke the contemplation of time as well as function as a “memory device” to visually distinguish your web page from your classmates’ pages.

When contemplating and exploring time for your essay, consider how you have come to understand time through your labyrinth walking experience, through your finding of a labyrinth in nature/art or your creation of a labyrinth in an art piece, and through your reading of David Mitchell’s work. For example, consider the way Mitchell plays with time and how that play makes you think about time differently. Or, consider how Mitchell’s narratives function as a temporal labyrinth.

# Group Writing Tips

Writing with someone else can be challenging. To make things easier, below is a suggested workflow. To make the sharing of the document easier, use google docs and export it as a Word doc to submit to Brightspace. (Here’s a video on how to get started in Google docs: https://youtu.be/aRLcV\_O67pc)

Suggested Workflow:

1.) Begin by brainstorming ideas as a group

*Remember there is no judgement in brainstorming.*

2.) Using the ideas that came out of the brainstorming session, “Student A” creates a rough outline of how you envision the paper.

3.) “Student B” edits and improves the outline by reorganizing it, adding new ideas, etc. 4.) Using the outline, “Student A” writes a very rough draft of the essay.

5.) “Student B” improves the essay, e.g. improves the writing and fleshes out ideas.

6.) “Student A” and “Student B” go over the paper and make improvements together. They look for ways to improve the writing and to improve the essay’s structure and organization.

**Labyrinths Shorter Essay**

Due **November 14**

# Instructions

Working with your **group**:

* Edit your essay down to a 750 words max essay that centers on what you consider to be the most meaningful and rich part(s) of you essay.

**Turn in** a Word doc with your **essay**. Upload to Brightspace/Assignments/Labyrinth Assignment 4

# Editing Process Suggestions

To begin the editing process, you need to identify what is at the core of your argument/claims. Essentially, you need to determine, “What are we really saying here?” To do this try filling in the following:

We are saying that time is and this is significant because . Or, put another way:

When reading our essay, we want people to understand that time is and we want them to understand this because .

Once you have filled in the blanks, comb through your essay and identify the information that best communicates what you have determined to be the core of your work. These are the ideas and writing that you should use to shape your shorter essay.

**Labyrinths Shorter Essay**

Due **November 28**

# Instructions

Working with your **group**:

* Create an original metaphor that embodies/summarizes your reflection on time essay. You are allowed to submit more than one.
* Write a sentence or few that explains your metaphor.

**Turn in** a Word doc with your **metaphor(s)**. Upload to Brightspace/Assignments/Labyrinth Assignment 5

# What is a Metaphor?

Metaphors are rhetorical devices that infuse deeper meeting into language. “The city is a jungle,” “He has a wooden demeanor,” and the “big bang” are all metaphors. Metaphors aren’t just figures of speech. They are how our language grows and changes and they shape our perception of the world. In the case of your metaphor, it will help shape people’s perception of time. With that in mind, please put some serious thought into this assignment and don’t choose a cliché, e.g. “Time is money.”

To learn more about metaphors, read pages 3-9 of *Metaphors We Live By* found in Brightspace/Content/Labyrinths of Time.