HI281 Research Paper Assignment
Adapted from: http://dartmouth.edu/writing-speech/gocsiks-twelve-step-research-assignment

Name ____________________________________________ Topic ________________________________

Step One: Identify/Become Familiar with Your Topic, Subtopics, and its Controversies
Your initial proposal will declare your topic and list some preliminary questions that you hope to investigate. Check out Wikipedia for aspects of your topic, initial sources, and points of controversy in the subject. These might be possible leads.

EX: The 1967 War: look up controversies
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Controversies_relating_to_the_Six-Day_War

- Brainstorm subtopics or related areas or questions. Ask your topic questions. Create a mind map.
- Try coggle.com, a free mind-mapping software so that you can explore ideas and their connections creatively.

Step Two: Library Session (or Researching to Formulate Your Questions)
A. Different topics suggest different strategies, including consulting special subject encyclopedias, referring to peer-reviewed journals, and using Googlebooks. As we talk about how to use sources to refine your thinking, you will also learn how to find the information that you need.

B. Working with your proposals and questions, the librarian will offer a variety of sources on a topic and ask you to evaluate them. We will also talk about what to do when, for instance, you find material that undermines your initial premise, or sources that are at odds with each other. (Take note and account for these in your writing.) We will discuss how to use sources responsibly.

OCT. 28 RESEARCH TOPIC AND QUESTIONS. INCLUDE A PARAGRAPH OF WHAT YOU HOPE TO FIND, INCLUDING CONTROVERSIES.

Research requires the continual refinement of a topic through a set of research questions. Accordingly, you are likely to challenge your initial premises and arrive at various conclusions as you work. The key word here is DISCOVERY. For this assignment, you should present a refined proposal and a set of focused questions that reflect your current thinking about your research. Include a succinct statement of your proposed argument, the questions you intend to address, and some plan for addressing/researching these questions with several kinds of sources—follow the BEAM model. (Background, Evidence, Argument, Methodology.)
Step Four: Abstract and Annotated Bibliography (or Considering Sources in Light of Your Argument)
Write a 75 word abstract summarizing the paper you think you're going to write. Attach a draft of your bibliography. This bibliography should identify a list of sources that includes books, journals, and on-line resources (at least 10, plus at least 2 primary, depending on your topic). You must annotate these sources—in other words, provide a brief commentary of what the sources contain, assess their academic quality, and address the ways that they appear to be useful to your topic. Include sources that will serve the following FOUR functions in your paper: Background, Evidence, Argument, and Method (BEAM). COMBINE STEPS 3-4 into RESEARCH QUESTION, WORKING THESIS, AND PELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY, DUE. NOV 6.

Step Five: Summarizing and Integrating Your Sources (Understanding the Existing Argument)
Write a draft essay (2-3 pp or coggle) that summarizes the most important sources that you intend to use in your paper. Consider how these sources comment on or are in conversation with one another. Try to get a "lay of the land" as regards your research. Be sure to include sources that take positions that are different from yours.

Step Six: Crafting an Introduction and an Outline (or Finding Focus, Structure, and an Argument)
By now, you should have a working thesis and introduction for your research paper. Your intro should contextualize your thesis and engage your reader. It should also offer the reader a suggestion of your paper's structure. *Use the cardifying and reverse outlining techniques on BB to restructure. [COMBINE STEPS 5-6, DUE NOV. 13. YOU MAY TURN IN OUTLINE OR COGGLE WITH THESIS AT CENTER].

Step Seven: Writing Body Paragraphs: Using/Analyzing/Citing Sources (or Working with Your Sources/Making them Work for You)
Post a couple of body paragraphs on BB. We'll review them in class to determine how well you've set up, employed, analyzed, and cited your sources. A thorough discussion of plagiarism is included here.

Step Eight: Drafting the Research Paper
Expect this to be a long process. You'll produce at least one complete draft that you then edit. Turn your draft in a week and a half ahead of the final deadline so I can give you comments. COMBINE STEPS 7-8. DRAFTS DUE NOV. 20

Step Nine: Your Research Presentation (or, Rethinking and Re-Mediating Your Research)
Your research presentations should NOT be a simple "replay" of your topic but should be re-designed so that you 1) spend some time talking ex tempore, 2) employ more than one medium, and 3) engage your classmates in discussion and ask them for feedback. A successful presentation will reconsider your topic and may focus on one part of the research, or elaborate on some aspect of the research that you didn't focus on in your paper. You will have ten-fifteen minutes to make your presentation; this will include any Q & A. Your presentation will be graded separately from your paper.
HI281Portrait of the Arabs:
POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

NOTE: You may also pick your own, but you MUST come and speak with me before you settle on a topic and thesis statement.

Water and resources disputes and social unrest; pick a context. This usually involves a border dispute.

Media-Analyze 4 films, with backgrounds, on any aspect of the Iraq war, war on terror, or any of the US interventions in the region. If you pick this topic, you have to research both image and reality.

Comparison of Media Coverage –Same stories, different audiences (European, US, Arab). You MUST give background to the conflict or issue if you pick this topic!

Arabian Nights (1-2 stories, plus “discovery” and translation story; TV Show “I Dream of Jeannie” is inspired by “The 1,001 Arabian Nights”).

Compare al-Nakba videos, Men in the Sun (novella and film posted on BB)

Minorities in the Arab World (focus on one)
   • Druze
   • Alawis
   • Jews (still living in Arab World, notably Morocco, Tunisia, Syria) or Mizrahim (“Oriental / Arab Jews living in Israel who emigrated from Arab lands)

Israeli Arabs (those who did not flee/ were not expelled /who remained in Israel)

Arab Jews (also look up Mizrahim, Oriental Jews)

Shi’is of the Arab world (pick one)

Arab Christians (many denominations; pick one or two)

New York Times Coverage of Historical Wars and Conflicts: (You may consider articles, editorials, and/or political cartoons). Use Fairfield’s online or microfiche archive (located in the lower level).
   • 1948- War of Independence/al-Nakba
   • 1956 Suez Canal Crisis
   • 1967 Six Day War and its Consequences
   • 1973 “The Crossing” of Israeli barrier in Sinai
   • 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon

Coverage of Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)

Gulf War I (1991) and UN sanctions

Gulf War II and invasion of Iraq (2003)

Arab Nationalism-

Pan-Arabism (19th c roots and 20th c expression)
Politics, Nationalism, and Song (umm Kalthoum, Marcel Khelife, Fairuz, influence of rap music on 2011 revolutions)

Orientalism and Arab stereotypes in TV Shows or Movies (example: “I Dream of Jeannie...” 1965-)

The Arab Family

Sexuality (book review of *Sex and the Citadel*) along with stereotypes of Arab sexuality

*Women and the Veil (only 2 papers on this subject will be approved). Use the book “Veiled Revolution.”*

Feminist movement in the Arab world.

Cultural topics: e.g., belly dance, ra’i music (means opinion in Arabic and often focuses on ‘taboo subjects’)

Political Islam as an alternative to “failed” Western models or any ONE of the groups labeled as terrorist: Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah [Lebanon Shi’a group], Hamas, Islamic Jihad.

Any three organizations (political action committees, in the US/Europe whose agenda is anti- Arab.

Any social issue in the region: eg., divorce, gay rights, mental health and war. Follow your interests.

Media freedom and the Arab Spring

Russel Tribunal Founded by philosopher/Nobel Laureate Bertrand Russell in 1966 as a “Tribunal of conscience,” the Russell Tribunal has investigated injustices and violations of international law that the international community fails to adequately address. [[Examples: Vietnam, headed by Jean-Paul Sartre, Tribunals have been formed to examine human rights violations in Argentina and Brazil (1973), Chile (1974-76), Iraq (2004), and Palestine (2009-2012)]]

Disputes or debates around the various UN resolutions (pick at least 3)

Al-Jazeera (24-hour TV network) and the War on Terror

Human rights issues in the Arab world. Any of the Countries and Human Rights (Saudi Arabia is a particularly interesting example).

Terrorism and the Arab in American film

Documentaries about Iraq war.

UN population conference and controversies.

US foreign policy and the ME/Arab World--Project of the New American Century (PNAC) and its impact on the Iraq War (see pdf position paper available on the internet).