**RESEARCH METHODS ASSIGNMENT**

The goal of this assignment is to help you develop academic research skills. In part 1 you will complete a library skills exercise and in part 2 you will produce a bibliography in proper MLA style and explain your choice of sources. To complete both parts you will have to refine a topic related to gender in either Classical Antiquity or the Medieval period.

**PART 1: LIBRARY SKILLS EXERCISE** (50%)

1. The topic of gender is too broad so you will have to narrow it by using the strategies covered in class. For example, you might apply the 5Ws to refine the topic of gender in the middle ages as follows: *masculinity in the medieval literature on courtly love*. (10%)

Topic:

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2. Identify the main concepts in your topic. Then consider synonyms for each concept to use as possible keywords to search article databases and/or the library catalogue. (10%)

**Concept 1 Concept 2 Concept 3**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

3. Find at least two reference sources (encyclopedias, handbooks, bibliographies, etc.) you can consult to conduct background research on your topic. List the title of the reference source and the relevant entry or entries within each. (10%)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reference Source Title** | **Title of Entry** |
| 1. |  | a) |
|  |  | b) |
|  |  |  |
| 2. |  | a) |
|  |  | b) |

1. Consider the topic you refined in question #1 above. Scholars in various disciplines may have investigated the topic. List at least three (inter) disciplinary areas that relate to your topic. *Hint: review the Subject A-Z List on the U of T Library website.* (5%)

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5. What is a scholarly journal article? Provide a definition and list as many characteristics as you can. *Hint: review the HUM199 Course Guide, especially the “Making Scholarly Choices” section.* (10%)

6. For each of the three (3) disciplines or interdisciplinary areas you identified in question #4 above, list the name of at least one article database you can search to find scholarly peer-reviewed articles. You should search each database to confirm that there are articles on your topic before recording your answer. *Hint: review the Subject A-Z List on the U of T Library website.* (5%)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Discipline or Interdisciplinary Subject** | **Name of Article Database** |
| 1. |  | a) |
|  |  | b) |
| 2. |  | a) |
|  |  | b) |
| 3. |  | a) |
|  |  | b) |

**PART 2: BIBLIOGRAPHY** (50%)

Provide citations in MLA style for three (3) articles and three (3) book entries on your gender-related topic in either Classical Antiquity or the Medieval period. Explain in one or two paragraphs the reasons for selecting the entries in your bibliography. (30% citations, 20% explanatory paragraphs).