**Student name: \_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_**

**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 or Early Modern (Renaissance) 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*. (5%)

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. (5%)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Main Concepts** | **Synonyms** |
|  | Synonym #1 |  | Synonym #2 |  | Synonym #3 |
|  |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  |
| **AND** |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  |
| **AND** |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  |
| **AND** | optional | **OR** |  | **OR** |  | **OR** |  |

**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. (5%)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 disciplines or interdisciplinary areas ***in the humanities*** 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.** 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) |

**6.** What is a scholarly journal article, a literature review, and a book review? Provide a definition for each publication type. Note the purpose that each serves in the scholarly conversation and how you can distinguish between these different source types. *Hint: review the SPA198 Course Guide, especially the “Making Scholarly Choices” section.* Use as much space as you need in the expandable answer box below. (20%)

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|  |

**7.** **Identifying type of source from a citation.** Below are citations to two (2) sources, each formatted in MLA Style (8th edition). Examine the citations and identify whether each is a journal article, a book, or a book chapter. Explain your answer. You can review MLA Style [here](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide). (5%)

**Citation #1:**

Kinoshita, Sharon. “The Politics of Courtly Love: La Prise d’Orange and the Conversion of the Saracen Queen.” *Romanic Review*, vol. 86, no. 2, 1995, pp.265–287.

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**Citation #2:**

Bayliss, Robert Elliott. *The Discourse of Courtly Love in Seventeenth-Century Spanish Theater*. Bucknell University Press, 2008.

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

Provide citations in MLA style (8th edition) for one (1) scholarly journal article, one (1) book review article, and one (1) book on your gender-related topic in either Classical Antiquity, the Medieval, or the Early Modern (Renaissance) period. Explain in one or two paragraphs the reasons for selecting the entries in your bibliography. (20% citations, 30% explanatory paragraphs).