

# MARS MUSEUM

## ANTH 399

Welcome to the future. Humans have expanded to Mars and the planet's permanent population has just reached 150,000 (a bit larger than the city of New Haven).

Tourism is a booming industry and visitors flock to the Mars history museum. The Mars Visitors Collective has commissioned us to curate the first exhibits for the new museum of Martian culture (name TBD). They want us to depict for Earthlings how the values of our community are embedded in the artifacts of our daily life, both at present and during our earlier years.

### TASKS

With a collaborator, you will create an object and accompanying text to explain to a visitor the significance of this object. The object should reflect some aspect of Martian culture, as established by readings and class discussions:

- Ritual, Myth, Identity, Race, Gender, Sexuality, Nationality, Governance, Human Nature (if it exists), Bodies, Senses, Language

You will submit a brief proposal (one per team) using the template provided which describes the object, timeline, and budget.

During the exhibition, you will present the object and short text. You will also photograph your installation.

The final submission will have four components

1. Photographic documentation
2. Text from the installation
3. Reflective essay
4. Team evaluation

### KEY DATES

**April 10: Team formation**

**April 16-19: Proposals Due**

**April 30: Installation**

**May 6: Final Submission**

### WORKSHOPS

**April 8: World Building I**

**April 10: World Building II; Teams**

**April 15: In class team time**

**April 17: Peabody Staff**

**April 22: Exhibit curation**

### GRADING

**Execution (35%).** How does the artifact look? Is its meaning clearly communicated?

**Knowledge (15%).** Does your artifact demonstrate understanding of both outer space and anthropology?

**Completion (10%).** Did you submit all project components?

**Reflection (40%).** Is your reflection thoughtful in its treatment of the artifact, your experience, and class concepts?

The reflective essay expands on the artifact in the context of the class. The essay (individually submitted) should include the following parts. (1) Your introduction should briefly set up the essay by motivating why you settled on this artifact and what anthropological themes it engaged with. (2) Explain your artifact and how it was produced, including any difficulties encountered and successes achieved. If you were unable to execute your original idea, here is the chance to express what you would have liked to have done. (3) Connect your artifact to relevant class themes. We want to understand how class ideas and readings impacted the imagination and execution of the artifact. We would like you to cite 2-5 readings from the syllabus or classroom conversations (style manuals provide guidance on how to cite a lecture). In addition, you may also cite readings (popular or scholarly) that were not on the syllabus but were useful as you developed your artifact. (4) Conclude the essay by reflecting on this experience as a whole – (how) did imagining the future help you reflect on the present?

The reflective essay is a combination of the different writing styles we've practiced this semester. Parts 1 and 2 can be ethnographic while part 3 is more like a reading response.

The reflective essay should be 1500 words. Be consistent with your reference style and include a bibliography.