

Research Presentation and Colloquium
Due: April 25 & 29 **Worth: 20%**

This culminating assignment consists of three parts: a short paper on a topic of your choice, a blog post summarizing and linking to your project, and a colloquium discussion with your peers. The presentations will be given at our penultimate class meeting and last screening on Tuesday, April 29, with papers and abstracts posted on the blog beforehand on Friday, April 25.

Short Paper & Blog Post

In this 3-4 page paper, you will identify and explore an area of personal interest in fan studies. You may take several different approaches to writing your paper:

- Detail a specific fan object, community, or practice of the present day or in history (note: this should not be a full research paper, but a descriptive overview)
- Identify and respond to an overarching theme or problematic in the material we have covered this semester
- Reflect on a methodological question or approach that you find interesting or problematic
- Critique a particular author or argument we have read together
- Highlight posts and draw connections within our course's blog archive
- Discuss two or more of our screenings in combination
- Present and discuss a fan artifact in an expanded form (i.e. going further than you would with a blog post)
- Other approaches OK, if discussed with me in advance

On Monday, April 21, you will email me an abstract (150-200 word summary) of your project. On Tuesday, April 22, I will announce 4-person panel assignments, grouping papers according to topic and interest. On Friday, April 25, each panel will upload full versions of their papers to the blog, along with a collectively-authored post containing your team's abstracts and links to the papers.

Colloquium Presentation

On Tuesday, April 29, we will devote our class meeting and the evening's screening time to panel discussions of your projects. (All students are expected to have read the full papers posted over the weekend.) Each team will have approximately 40 minutes for a discussion among themselves of their projects and Q&A with the audience. You will not present your papers, though we will briefly review the panel's topics at the start.

On Thursday, May 1, we will discuss the colloquium and wrap up the course, filling out evaluations. I will return your graded papers at that time. This will constitute your final in FMST 85 and conclude your work for the class.

Timetable

Monday, April 21	Email 150-200 word abstract of your paper to <i>brehak1@swarthmore.edu</i>
Tuesday, April 22	Group assignments given out in class (6 groups of 4 people each)
Thursday, April 24	<i>Class does not meet</i>
Friday, April 25	Each group posts to blog: abstracts of your projects and links to full papers in Microsoft Word or PDF format
Weekend (April 26-28)	All students read each others' papers
Tuesday, April 29	Colloquium presentations: two during class time, four during screening time
Friday, May 1	Last class meeting; discuss colloquium, fill out evals, papers returned