

## **Short Essay for SHUM 415**

**Due:** Oct. 2

### **Deadlines:**

Project Proposal Due: **Sept. 11** (Homework 2)

Annotated Bibliography Due: **Sept. 18** (Homework 3)

Essay Due: **Oct. 2**

### **Goal:**

The goal of this essay is to explore historical dynamics in the integration of homes and their environment. The essays developed in this class will help us identify compelling issues to address in the museum exhibit we are developing over the course of the semester.

### **Topic:**

For this paper you will

1. **Select** one dimension of material flow into and out of homes (e.g.: electric power, water, consumer goods, electronic communication).
2. **Describe** its history in the West/the US over the course of industrialization. How is this flow currently primarily handled, and how has it been handled differently in the past?
3. **Analyze** its cultural-environmental dimensions. What social and cultural factors have led to the way it currently is handled? What environmental impact follows from these factors?
4. **Identify** and argue for issues that arise around this material flow that provide, in your estimation, compelling ground for environmental interventions.

This paper requires some independent research to determine the history of your chosen flow, for which you should rely primarily on secondary, peer-reviewed sources such as excerpts from scholarly books and journal articles. The historical description should take at least 2 pages, and your cultural-environmental analysis should take at least 1 page. The balance is for you to determine according to your interests.

In grading this essay, I will focus on the following aspects: (1) detailed historical description based on rigorous, independent library research; (2) novel, thoughtful, and balanced analysis of the material flow you have selected with awareness of topics and issues raised in class; and (3) convincing argumentation about the nature and value of compelling issues you have identified.

### **Format:**

Write 6-8 pages, using a standard font, in 10 points. Double-space your papers, number their pages, and staple or paper-clip them together. On the top of the first page include your name, the name of the assignment, and the title of the essay. Essays must be proofread and spell-checked. Use a proper and consistent citation format; include a references list with complete citations and cite the page number for all quotations or direct references to the text.