

Web Design in Culture Courses

Assignment: making a web site

- non-lineal approach to learning culture
- “When students create their own web-sites, they can begin to experience both the web as medium and culture as construction... they come to grapple with the ways in which meanings and their representation function in the past and present and to think more concretely about their own position as creators in cyberspace.” (Susan Kassouf, “The Web and Berlin as Baustellen: Reflecting on Cultural Construction in the German Studies Classroom” in *Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German*, Vol.33, No.1, Spring 2000, pp.71-77, p.72)
- “Our particular project asked students to think not only about the ways in which Berlin is represented but also the ways in which they themselves decide to represent it and for whom.” (Ibid.)
- “Rather than requiring students to acquire a more static body of knowledge, the web enabled animated negotiations and encouraged students’ awareness of the politics of knowledge in practical situations.” (Ibid, 74)

Web-site proposal:

1. Outline of main argument or question
2. Layout
3. Research / Content summary

Peer evaluation of web-sites:

1. What do you find particularly effective / ineffective about the site?
2. What kind of information is conveyed (commercial, political, academic, private?)
3. How do graphics interact with text (support undermine, contradict)?
4. What is the role of the viewer (passive, active?)
5. In what ways does the site succeed in its intentions?
6. What questions does the site raise?

Final / course evaluation:

1. Participation and group contribution
2. Completion of assignments
3. Web-site