

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Each of you will choose an author and compile a bibliography of *secondary* sources about that figure. That means you will not be concerned with works the author has written but with *what others have had to say about the author's works*. Your job is comprehensiveness, readability, and precision in citation methodology.

Categories and Format

1. The principle concern is **CRITICISM**; however, you should include any and all **interviews** with and article or book-length **bibliographies** concerning your subject.
 - You do not need to worry about **biographical** materials unless they are article or book-length; thus, you can ignore short sketches in reference books.
2. Divide the bibliography into the following subsections:
 - Book-length studies
 - Articles and Chapters in Books
 - Journal Articles
 - Interviews
 - Dissertations
 - Reviews
 - divide these chronologically beginning with the author's first book-length publication and move up to the present; list each set of reviews under the title of each publication (see handout for examples)
3. Follow *scrupulously* the details of bibliographic formatting as defined in Chapter 4 of the *MLA Handbook*. The assignment will be evaluated in terms of its *precision* and *comprehensiveness*.

Preparing the Bibliography:

1. Begin by collecting *everything* you find, no matter how seemingly obscure and insignificant.
2. Put complete bibliographic citations on separate note cards and arrange these in the groupings listed above.
3. Initially I recommend exhausting all the electronic resources listed on the handout in your syllabus and which we will explore together in the computer lab.
 - For ease of preparation, email citations to yourself, print these out, cut them into separate citations, and paste them on your note cards. However, keep anything you download; this will save time later in preparing the final bib.
4. Once you have finished your electronic search, move into the library to explore bound

volumes. Once again look at the other handout in your syllabus for a list of the most commonly accessed resources. Ideally you want to scour through all the bibliographies and indexes devoted to research in literature and the humanities. (One reference work worthy of consideration is the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* which has bio-critical essays of some length. Resources like *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Novelists*, *Current Biography* are useful in discovering the range of a writer's oeuvre.)

4. Once you are confident of having looked at all bound sources, don't forget to consult *Dissertation Abstracts International* and a good search engine for any internet web sites devoted to your writer.

5. Once you have compiled your compile listings from the indexes and bibliographies; you must go to the stacks (microfilms and microfiches in some cases) and *physically confirm* the citations. Check the volume, date, pagination, and in the case of reviews the title of the review and its author. Remember you are trying to help another grad student or scholar conduct profitable research.

- Reviews are less important than critical articles, but if included they must be scrupulously researched.

6. If you have *too many citations*, you will need to do some winnowing. First to go are short reviews from journals such as *Publishers Weekly*, *Choice*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, etc. If you are still over the recommended length, eliminate Dissertations. If length is still a problem, you can excise essays written in foreign languages. And if you are still flush with material, consult with me.

7. When preparing the final version of the bibliography, include a Preface in which you discuss any difficulties or challenges posed by researching your subject. Also explain any legends or symbols used in identifying entries. (I recommend preceding entries you were unable to physically verify with an * and use a + to indicate corrections of errors in citations.)

8. Remember, your aim is *comprehensiveness*. To that end, you must be prepared to visit UC Davis's Shields Library and possibly the State Library downtown to consult resources unavailable at the CSUS library.

CRITICAL RESOURCES [bold & 18 Pt font]

Book-Length Studies

Articles and Chapters in Books

Journal Articles

Interviews

Dissertations

Biography (if pertinent)

Book Reviews

Title of Books in italics (date)