

End of Capstone Reflection

At first when I heard rumors of a zombie course that would be mandatory for Liberal Arts majors, I wasn't so fond of the idea. The mainstream zombie craze was already annoying and I wasn't keeping up with shows like *The Walking Dead*. However, the introduction to the course made this course seem interesting. Beginning with *Social Construction of an Apocalypse* was a good start; it gave me a clearer definition of apocalypse and zombies. Moving on to *Infectious Disease* right after was convenient because at this I understood how apocalyptic were shaped and what the necessities were during various apocalypse. In this module I was also able to connect concepts I learned in biology. *Literacy Dystopias* was different compared to Modules 1 and 2 because it was independent instead of group work, we weren't creating an eportfolio, we didn't really learn new concepts but we did build off of things we already knew. I was able to use things I had learned in my previous modules to enhance my story. I even built off the first story I created as a potential apocalypse in *Social Construction of apocalypse* as the setting of my short story. I see Module 3 as a way to put the whole Capstone Course together. I was able to see the incorporation of what we have learned throughout our liberal arts courses within this course. Being able to use concepts we have learned in previous courses in a different context is actually interesting and it has helped me practice these concepts.

In particular the *Literacy Dystopia* module in the Capstone Course, did not build on the skills we learned in *Composition* but instead focused on creative writing. But the weekly responses to the short stories made me rethink concepts such as plots, setting, characters, themes and even sentence structures and literary elements and techniques. I also enjoyed the stories, especially *The Naturalist*. I kind of used the concept of observing the zombies in my own

personal story as well as explaining the main tool; a periscope in my short story the way the protagonist of the Naturalist explained his fire invention that attracted the zombies.

However, I did struggle with the short story. After writing academic papers for the past semesters, I didn't realize how difficult it would be for me to break out of the academic style and do some creative writing. My peers would probably disagree with me but I would have rather done a paper on zombies, something like creating a definition of what it means to be a zombie and trying to relate realistic people that may be zombies. For example, zombies are dead and they feed off of humans, so do white collar criminals who have a dead conscious. I don't know, maybe that's weird. Overall I did enjoy reading the short stories, I was glad to get away from academic reading. Unfortunately, I realized I'm not such a great fiction writer, I can be descriptive but I'm not sure how to find my voice through the lens of the characters in my story. I felt so disengaged from my story. Maybe I'll take a creative writing class as an elective to make up for this small failure.

Lastly, this has been a very tough semester on me as I balanced two Studio classes, my mentor shifts, took part in various events as a soon to graduate student, and managed my internship. I have learned that my experience at Guttman won't compare to my experience at a four-year college and so although I can depend on my writing skills I will have to learn to adapt to a bigger college. My relationships with professors won't be as engaging with professors at four years but I still have to make sure to ask questions, and be attentive. But I can proudly say, I can easily write a 10-page paper, present to a large group of people and somehow manage group work. I also realize that I need to work on learning to write a proper annotated bibliography and a literature review. I am also thankful for the interview and ethnographic skills Guttman has

taught me, I am sure they will be useful for me as a psychology major and a political science minor as well as a scholar.