

ENG181: Literature, Space, and Gender  
Emory University, Spring 2013, Prof. Elkins

Paper #3: (4-5 pages)  
Visual and Material Analysis Essay

**Schedule:**

Mon. April 1—**email** paper by 9AM and bring a **hard copy** of your paper to class

Note:

I will grade your essays in hard copy according to the usual guidelines and procedures. Then, the electronic version of your essay will be reviewed by two other essay judges. You are certainly able to opt out of this portion of the assignment, so please let me know if you would rather not participate. The top three papers will be featured (if you choose) on the Artists' Books Showcase MARBL website/online exhibition. It's a great way to consider a wider audience for your writing and to show off your hard work and creative thinking. Per aspera ad astra!

Assignment:

Johanna Drucker emphasizes “the labyrinthine web of associations which a book provides.” She asks us to think of books as “physical, material, and conceptual” objects as well as containers of meaning. For your third essay, consider how artists' books make meaning as physical, material, conceptual, metaphorical, and literary objects. After selecting an artist's book from the Emory Manuscript, Archives, Rare Books Library (MARBL), write a well-organized essay on how your book makes an artistic statement. You will want to have a clear thesis with supporting evidence from your examinations and “reading” of the book.

Some questions to consider:

- Does your book resist your usual modes of reading? If so, how?
- What story does your artist's book tell?
- What senses do you use to read the book?
- What is the experience of reading this book like?
- What is its argument/stance on a given issue?
- How is the space of the book gendered?

You may bring in other readings from the class to compare and develop your argument and supporting interpretations. You may also consult outside research, but your sources must be reputable, scholarly resources. You are responsible for citing all sources using MLA guidelines.

Your essay should be at least 4 *full* pages long and up to 5 pages. It should be well-written and organized. Clear paragraph organization, focused transitions, and lucid prose will all contribute to the success of your paper. Be sure to read the paper out loud to yourself before turning it in and edit carefully for typos.

MLA guidelines for format and citation:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- Double-spaced
- Include the proper heading (Name, Course, Professor Name, Date) in the upper left corner.
- Give your paper an interesting title.
- Number pages on the upper right corner (except for first page if possible), and include a header with your last name.
- Your margins must be 1 inch on all sides (Please note that the default margins in Microsoft Word are *not* 1 inch. You must change them).
- Format all in-paper citations correctly according to MLA standards and include a **Works Cited** page at the end of your essay.