



Open
College
of the Arts

Michael Millmore

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Unit

PH3: Contextual Studies Assignment 1

Type of tutorial

Video - zoom

Formative feedback

Normally to be written by the student, and endorsed by the tutor with **additions/amendments in red.**

Key points

Reassuring to hear that I might not be as far off track with this assignment as I had feared. Although it will be unlikely that this will form part of CS going forward, the act of completing and getting the ball rolling has been key – I am certainly feeling much more secure about moving forward with the course after completing the assignment and the tutorial.

Yes. It's far too easy to procrastinate with A1 and not even attempt to get everything underway until the thesis and its direction have been absolutely clarified. Writing your way into everything is always the best idea, and do keep this in mind with all future assignments. Getting your ideas down in written form and playing with them will be far more likely to nudge everything along than waiting until you feel ready.

The assignment did feel like it was a little removed from where you're specifically going with everything, but that's certainly nowt to worry about: it's served its purpose and has helped you clarify a few things, so job done.

Lots of discussion about possible themes going forward. Initially I felt quite unsure about how to progress but talking through it became clear that my interests open up a great deal of possibility for further research, such as – locality, region, place, walking, politics locally and nationally, movement from heavy industry to leisure/information/knowledge-based economy. I feel confident that I have more than enough material to be looking at for my literature review and anticipate that the process of conducting this will open up possibilities of where the final project will head.

....so the assignment has done what it needed to do.

*re themes, the mantra to keep in mind here is, again, 'widen your research, narrow your focus.' With further reading around the ones you've mentioned, you'll **definitely***

have plenty of light-on moments that you'll be able to bring to the work. This, ultimately, is why research is so important: it's less about helping you to confirm / 'prove' what you know than giving you new ways to think about and understand everything. So while CS involves lots of writing, it's also about reading and, primarily, thinking. Again, whatever your doubts about this as an assignment in its own right, it's helped kick the thinking process on, so has done what it needed to.

Agreeing a date for submission of the next assignment and tutorial will help keep me focused and hopefully gain momentum – while it was good to hear that there is plenty of scope identify themes and explore, it is also important to recognise that the more time taken at this early part of the course, the less time there will be left to at the end when it will be most needed. The advice “it's about widening the research in order to narrow the focus” is a particularly helpful and concise analysis about how to progress.

Indeed! Time and patience are needed with work of this sort. Not everything you do will necessarily cause you to dance around your living room in joy, and it's standard to feel a touch of frustration and annoyance now and then. But it's important to recognise such things as inevitable parts of the process, not reasons to feel beaten and down. While it's obviously hard to always dedicate as much time to your studies as you'd like, what constitutes 'work' on research-based projects doesn't always have to mean producing several hundred flawless words every time you're able to commit to a morning, afternoon or evening of work. Sometimes the most productive days are those where an idea emerges out of the blue and changes your approach to an issue or helps you to resolve a problem. In short, just try to keep your head in the work as much as you can, and get into the habit of making a prolific amount of notes. These will be key.

Summary of tutorial discussion

To include:

- Continue reading, making notes and thinking about areas of interest/themes for CS e.g. region, locality, walking, local vs national politics, move from heavy industry to leisure.
- Think about how BoW applies and informs CS.
- Keep an open mind to research – going down path that turn out to be dead ends is not an issue.

All sounds good to me.

(2nd Assignment only): Summary of Research Proposal (amended in the light of the tutorial)

To include stages and timescales

Any other notes

We mentioned texts in the session, so see how you get on with them and drop me a line if there's anything that I can help with. See you in July!

Tutor name	Andrew Conroy
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Date	13 th April 2021
Next assignment due	6 th July 2021

Assessment Criteria

Demonstration of subject based knowledge and understanding

Demonstration of critical and evaluation skills

Demonstration of research skills

Communication