

Appendix 3: Final Assignment **The Police in Literature and Culture**

In this final assignment, you will explore the themes of the course in a mode of your own choosing. The goal of this assignment is to (1) assess your understanding of the course and (2) allow you to engage with the course themes in a format of your own choosing.

All these options may be completed individually or in a group. If you choose to work in a group, you must extend the length of the project to reflect the number of group members and include a short statement that identifies each group member's role in the project. Based on this statement, group members may receive different grades.

If you choose to do one of the non-essay options, your assignment should be the equivalent of a 1300-1500 essay in terms of work.

1. Write an academic essay (1300-1500 words) about a work of fiction (short story, novel, film, television show, graphic novel, etc.) of your own choice that broadly relates to the themes of the course (police, discipline, prisons, etc.). Your paper should have a **clear thesis** and build its case with careful textual analysis. While you may want to provide some contextual or historical background, your paper should be **argumentative and analytical** rather than descriptive.
2. Write an academic essay (1300-1500 words) analyzing a Hong Kong or online museum/historical site related to policing, law enforcement, or correctional services. Your paper should have a **clear thesis** and build its case with analysis of the site you selected.
3. Create a piece inspired by the course in a medium and format of your choice, then explain in 400-600 words how it explores some of the themes of the course. For instance, you could write a self-reflective essay, create a comic book or work of visual art, or record a podcast of your own.
4. Raise a question that has real significance for contemporary society and that is related to the themes of the course. Then create one of the following: (1) A short story, a narrative podcast, or a work of creative art that explores that question through fiction, and then explain in 400-600 words how it explores some of the themes of the course; or (2) Write an opinion article (1300-1500 words) that takes a position and supports this position with research and with at least 2-3 course materials (readings, lectures, class discussions, etc.).
5. Choose a word or term that needs further critique, similar to JP's analysis of the words "citizen" or "criminality." Write a 1300-1500 essay analyzing how 2-3 materials in the course complicate or problematize this word.
6. Other: If you have an additional idea of your own, please email jvaldez@hku.hk a short proposal that explains your idea and why you think it would be an appropriate final assignment for this course.

Optional Consultations, Week of December 7 – Please email jvaldez@hku.hk to schedule an appointment.

Assignment adapted from "Appendix 3: Final Assignment" by Jessica R. Valdez published in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2021.