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Classics 121: Ancient Religion
AR/VR assignment (due December 6th)

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Assignment:

New computer technologies are changing the ways that people can experience cultural heritage and historical monuments. One important technology is Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) software and hardware that allows people to experience sites of significant cultural heritage at a distance and in more informed ways. This has lots of benefits – it can democratize access to cultural heritage, it can protect cultural heritage from damage done by mass tourism, it can reduce climate impacts from air travel – but also raises new challenges. How can we design rich and accessible experiences for AR/VR technology? How can we make sure that we inform the public reliably about past cultures?

Your assignment is to design a Google Expedition (using Google Cardboard viewer technology) aimed at high school juniors and seniors in the United States who are learning about ancient culture, including religions. You will need to make a thoughtful tour of an ancient sanctuary space (or spaces) that both allows the students to experience a place of important cultural heritage and accurately informs them about it. Given the focus of our course, your tour should show viewers how religion was part of ancient culture.

This assignment is funded by a UC Berkeley Arts + Design Initiative Creative Discovery Grant. This is towards the campus Discovery goal that more "undergraduate students engage in scholarly and experiential learning. All such efforts should challenge students to question, design, implement, and iterate toward a thoughtful and creative culminating product."

Requirements:
- You will need to create a virtual tour of one of the following sanctuaries or spaces: Delphi, the Acropolis of Athens, the sanctuaries of the Roman city of Pompeii.
- The tool for creating the tour is Google Tour Creator. See the video instructions for a basic introduction to this tool. Make sure that you use this tool with your UC Berkeley Google account.

- The tour MUST include 3 to 7 "scenes" and a minimum of 15 "points of interest" (in total). You must also use at least 4 supplementary images as part of your tour. The tour will be graded on its design – you should carefully plan the tour and think about how to effectively introduce the ancient space to American students. Design is not just a matter of aesthetics – it is about thinking about how you can reach an audience effectively and informatively.
- You must also produce a Word document made up of the labels from your tour and a link to the tour. This document (excluding bibliography and footnotes) should be at least 1100 words long and include footnoted references to both ancient and modern sources. You will be graded on the scholarly accuracy and depth of your labels. The supplementary images should also be included as an appendix to this document.
- The assignment is due December 6th at 1pm – our class time.

Rubric:

	Outstanding	Very Good	Acceptable	Room for improvement
AR/VR tour:				
Design (sequence, choice of scenes, choice of points of interest)	The AR/VR tour is extremely well designed, follows a compelling logic in order and content, includes the important parts of the site. There are at least 3 scenes and 15 points of interest.	The AR/VR tour is well designed, with a clear sequence of scenes and the points of interest are significant for understanding the site. There are at least 3 scenes and 15 points of interest.	The AR/VR tour shows the site in some clear order and most of the points of order are significant. There are at least 3 scenes and 15 points of interest.	The design of the AR/VR tour is confusing, does not seem to follow a clear logic, the points of interest seem random or chosen for convenience. There are fewer than 3 scenes or 15 points of interest.
Presentation (use of supplementary images/maps, historical connections)	The tour includes at least four supplementary images that are very well chosen and presented to allow the viewer to understand better the site as it was in antiquity and in relation to religious history. The labels give	The tour includes at least four supplementary images that are relevant to the points of interest. The labels refer to the history of the site and explain its relevance for ancient religion.	The tour includes at least four supplementary images, but not all might be relevant or accurately chosen for their points of interest. The labels only briefly refer to the history of the	The tour does not include at least four supplementary images. The labels do not convey a sense of the historical context of the site or its use in ancient religion.

	a sense of chronology and history of the site and of ancient religion.		site and its religious historical context.	
Accessibility	The tour is appropriate for its audience of high school students and enables them to experience an immersive sense of place in a sanctuary.	The tour is mostly appropriate for high school students and gives some sense of place (but might leave viewers confused about overall site).	The tour is somewhat appropriate for high school students (might be too basic or obscure) and would not leave them with a good idea of how the sanctuary looked or worked.	The tour is not appropriate for the target audience (too low or too high tone) and does not create a sense of the site.
Labels and research:				
Explanation of site and use in religious life of ancient people	The labels give accurate and up-to-date information about the ancient sanctuary and about ancient religion. They introduce well both the physical spaces and ancient uses of these spaces, going beyond the "obvious".	The labels are accurate and correctly identify the various parts of the site. They include details about ancient religion.	The labels are mostly accurate, perhaps with some misplaced or mislabeled parts of the site. The details about ancient religious use of the sites are not well integrated into the labels.	The labels are significantly inaccurate, do not include substantive information or consideration of the religious function of the site.
Quality of writing	The labels are well written in appropriate language with precise use of both common and specialist terminology. The text is at least 1100 words.	The labels are clearly written throughout the tour and are in a suitable register. The text is at least 1100 words.	The labels do convey the information, but may be awkwardly phrased or use inappropriate language (ie. jargon or slang). The text is at least 1100 words.	The labels do not work to convey information to the viewer because of their language. The text is less than 1100 words long.
Citation/reference to ancient and modern sources to support labels and interpretation	The notes and bibliography for the Word document version are detailed and appropriate. Both ancient and modern sources are used.	The notes and bibliography do support the texts of the labels. There may be over-reliance on one ancient or modern source.	The notes and bibliography support some of the claims made in the labels, but other portions of the labels are not supported.	There are few or no notes or bibliography to support the labels and/or the sources used are not appropriate or reliable.

Guidance:

- We will provide a set of basic resources for each tour. For each of the three sanctuaries, you will have a basic reading list and a map of the site. You may wish to do further library research, but make sure that you use reliable sources.
- Do view and review the sample tour of the Roman forum as a religious space that I have made – it should model the outcome that we are looking for – in fact, I believe that you can do even better!
- It is recommended that you first learn about your sanctuary and explore it both on paper and online. Try to understand what is visible now and what it looked like in antiquity. Try also to understand what people did there.
- Then you should start planning your tour. It may be worth doing this on paper first or perhaps by making a practice tour on Google Tour Creator. Ask yourself: what is a logical sequence for a visit to this space? What things do I need to tell the viewer about? How will I show the viewer how ancient people used this space?
- Make the tour carefully. Choose good points for a 3D experience of the space and carefully place your labels. Write clear informative labels (including use of correct grammar and spelling!)
- For the Word document version, make sure that the tour is the required length (1100 words) and that you have given appropriate references. You have the choice of formatting. Any consistent bibliographic/reference system is permitted – but it should clearly and consistently show which sources support your statements in the tour.

Due: December 6th 1pm.

Time Management:

You have several weeks to complete this assignment. Please use this time well and properly schedule time for this task. Do not leave the assignment to the final week of the semester; you will not have enough time left to properly learn about the sanctuary and find sources, produce a high-quality design of a tour and write clear labels.

Assistance:

The Reader for the class, Lauren Miller should be your first point of contact for assistance with this assignment; she holds regular office hours on Friday at 11.30am and will hold extra office hours later in the semester. Her email is lem@berkeley.edu

You will also find good resources for accessing information about ancient archaeology and history through the Library. See this site for how librarians can help you: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/help/research-help

I am also available by email and in my office hours; in some cases, I may refer you to Lauren for in-depth help.