

Open Pedagogy Assignment - Alex Ho

My new assignment, applying the principles and aims of open pedagogy, will be a collaborative zine. This is for a new course, which I am teaching at Brooklyn College that is a V-section (a half-credit independent study seminar, due to low enrollment), called “Asian American and Pacific Islander Activism and Community”. The collaborative zine project will be the final step of the course for my students to identify and excerpt the most interesting and impactful aspect of their paper assignments to make a 1-page section of their zine.

We will look at important zines from the Asian American Movement, including *Gidra* and *Bridge Magazine*, as inspiration. This will be part of our reading materials and class modules, and will make this final project have a meaningful connection to the class objectives.

Students will have to work as a group to decide on a shared theme, put each of their pieces together, make a cover page, and a table of contents.

I will also be using this structure in the class I am teaching at BMCC this semester, ASN111 (Chinese Culture and Heritage), as a final presentation element. This version of the collaborative zine project will be language-focused. I will ask each student to make a large 1-page display (or illustration) of a Chinese character, and hopefully the graphic nature of this task will allow students to make creative analogs and parallels to the meaning of the character as well as connections to the other components of the class, including history, geography, society, identity, and art. An warm-up introduction to this project will be for us to print out and use the *Yi Jing* (The Book of Changes) as a zine to do a fun fortune telling activity, since that book is all about different permutations of outcomes based on the system of hexagrams that one sees in a lot of Taoist iconography. Similarly, the *Dao De Jing* (a book of metaphysical riddles) could be fun for us to print out for students to browse. This will also help us have a playful approach to looking at these classic texts that I assign as reading materials.

Right now, this assignment is a bare-bones description of the rationale and where it will be placed in the class. I had hoped to be further along with an actual assignment rubric and guidelines, but I would appreciate any thoughts or feedback. I foresee some challenges being that students might not immediately see the use of this activity, so I hope to inspire my students about the benefits of zine-making by asking them to write and discuss a reflection of how these activities felt to them and what they experienced.