

ENGL 353 Fall 2022

Zine Project

For this, our culminating project of the semester, you (in groups or solo) will create and produce a zine. Zine is short for fanzine or magazine; a zine is a self-published document, typically produced by an individual or a small group. Zines have small circulations, are typically printed by photocopier, and often have an DIY kind of aesthetic. They got their start in the science fiction scene as early as the 1940s, eventually spreading into music (especially punk) and other fandoms.

While zines have been historically put together by low tech means (literal cutting and pasting, photocopying), you may opt to use digital tools to produce your zine.



You will need to print copies of your zine, but you may want to investigate additional platforms with which to share your publication: [Flipsnack](#), Zine (phone app), to name two.

Tasks and Components

1. Decide on your **zine's theme** and whether you will work on a team or solo. Use the Canvas discussion post "Zine Theme Discussion" to aid in the process.

Theme and team decision date: Due October 30, deadline Nov 1. Worth 3 points of Zine assignment.

2. Develop a zine **style guide**. Refer to the information on style sheets and style guides in *The Copyeditor's Handbook*. This is a bit contrary to the nature of zines, but I want you to get practice with style guides. These are often created as you encounter questions. Include things like:

- The dictionary to be used
- How to deal with numbers, fractions, decimals
- Serial / Oxford comma use
- pronoun use

3. The zine's written contents! Articles you write.

Further requirements – at least 8 pages of written content, supplemented with images. At least one page should be your "manifesto" – a proclamation of your personal beliefs and values. The rest of the zine's content should reflect some relationship or connection to your manifesto. (If you struggle to make a connection between the two, see me and we'll see what we can do.)

For those working in groups: each group member should produce at least 8 pages of written content, supplemented with images. Each group member should write a manifesto.

The primary content needs to be written – articles, essays, poems, flash fiction, comic strips, microfiction, recipes with comments, interesting out-of-copyright material edited as needed. You can include puzzles and similar content, but this should be in addition to the 8 pages of written content.

4. Images, photos, etc. Zines are known for taking, appropriating, and otherwise flagrantly defying US copyright law. Since our zine is covered by the educational aspects of [fair use](#), that helps. As zine creator you will want to decide how you want to obtain and create images and how you will credit it if needed – in a caption, a list of images and sources at the end, etc. We will read about copyright rules and Creative Commons.

5. Keep a journal of your zine creation by making a weekly post on our class Zine Production discussion board. Worth 4 points of discussion board credit.

6. Assemble the zine and have it printed. Your instructor gets one printed copy. You can decide how many you will distribute, how much you will sell each copy for, how and where to sell / distribute it, etc.

7. After you complete the zine, you will write a post-project reflection and self-evaluation. Questions will be provided to help guide you on this. If you work on a team, each team member will submit a reflection and self-evaluation.

Evaluation

Your zine will be evaluated on the overall effort the finished product reflects. Remember, zines have a long history of lower production values, so you do not have to be a professional designer; your zine does not have to look like Vogue or GQ (but it can, I suppose, if you want). Effort also doesn't mean your writing is a certain way or style.



Effort shows in how much –you– did. Did you propose a Jane Austen fanzine, and then fill it with Jane's out-of-copyright work, with no additions on your part, and then include a bunch of pics of Colin Firth as Darcy? LOW EFFORT BOOOOO

Did you produce at least 8 pages of your own writing, and attempt to create your images? MORE EFFORT YAY!!!!

You will also need to submit all required components to be eligible for full credit. The printed final version of the zine with manifesto, your zine style guide, the final reflection.

Your reflection and self-evaluation will also play a role in how your zine is evaluated.



Class Calendar

Week 10 October 25, 27

Tuesday: Discuss readings; finalize teams, topics; look at examples of zines for inspiration.

This week's work – Before class next week read pp. 6-74 in *Make a Zine*. Participate in Zine Project discussion board (team formation, topics, examples, questions.)

Week 11 November 1, 3

Tuesday: document design / production; Creative Commons discussion; Discussing ideas for publicity/sales.

This week's work – Begin producing Zine articles and material; communicate with group members regularly. Read pp 75-105 and “Resources” in *Make a Zine*.

Week 12 November 8, 10

Tuesday: Guest speaker.

This week's work – continue Zine production (writing and editing). Read pp 106-157 in *Make a Zine*.

Week 13 November 15, 17

Tuesday: Plan print run, distribution and publicity. Groups have time to work.

This week's work – Groups should be finalizing articles, layout, perhaps even printing and assembling.

Week 14 November 22, 24

Tuesday: Time to work on zine (do we want to meet as a class? You can use the classroom for sure).

Thanksgiving break is this week – November 23-27

This week's work – Last week to produce final product.

Week 15 November 29, December 1

Tuesday: Zine Release Party! Bring printed copies of zine to share and discuss informally.

This week's work – Submit post-project reflection. Finish releasing copies of your Zine into the wild. Enjoy the gratifying feeling of a Zine well done.