

Your zine should be comprised of four components ...

Produce a zine and share it with your classmates through various means – probably primarily the international and US postal systems.

Drawing inspiration from the Whole Earth Catalog, and in particular the way that its founder Stewart Brand created a social network for circulating ideas, create an off-the-grid, “low tech” social network to circulate ideas about off-the-grid media within the learning community of our class.

Description

An off-the-grid experience. Arrange an off-the-grid experience, whatever that means to you: going into nature including urban nature or a park, getting off the electrical grid or other grids for some amount of time, meditation, unplugging from social media or communication networks for some amount of time. Document the experience: written observations, sketches, or something else. Reflections on what it means to get off-grid today: in 2021, during the spring semester, amid a global pandemic, in New York City or wherever you are as someone at least partly connected to New York City.

Advice, reflections, and how-to for a DIY electronics project. (Your Project 1.) For this component you should share reflections and observations from your project work, including notes about what your project did, why someone may want to do it, and tips that might help someone else who wants to implement this. Include several images, at minimum including a schematic or diagram, and two photos of its operation.

Conceptual discussion of the analysis, theory, and critique of off-the-grid discourses and practices. This is the section in which you will integrate engagement with the texts and discussions from this semester. This should be about 500-750 words. Refer back to your notes & reading responses, as well as to my presentation slides and Zoom recordings of our discussions.

Component 1:

Component 2:

Component 3:

Digital Media Off-the-Grid

LCST 2454, Spring 2021

Project Brief 2

OFF-THE-GRID SOCIAL NETWORK

Deliverables

- A zine (2-3 mini, or one 8.5x11” [or A4] of about 10 pages
- Mailed to at least 3 people (instructor included)

Due Dates

- Fri, April 23: Rough draft of all textual content
- Mon, April 26: All zines must be mailed!
- May 4 & 6: In-class presentations and discussion
- Monday, May 10, 8pm: Final term paper

Assigned: Tuesday, April 6

Component 4:

You will be evaluated based on whether you complete these four parts and are able to circulate your zine in an off-the-grid manner to other members of the social network that is our learning community (your classmates).

Have fun!

Other fun stuff! Drawings, doodles, stamps, stickers, scraps, fragments, collages, or anything else that may contribute to this within the realm of “zine aesthetics.”