

ENGL 2297: Special Studies in Histories
Final Project Guidelines

As a class we will be mapping Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* using the tool StoryMap. Working in groups, each group will be responsible for leading a class discussion on 3-4 chapters of the novel and for creating three "slides" for the map.

Among the questions I want you to think about are: What is the importance of place, space, and travel? What is the point of a community reading program? How does Butler's novel help us understand the role of reading, writing, and empathy? How can we bridge the world of the classroom and the world outside?

Part I: Group Oral Presentation I (25%)

Due: April 9-April 20

Each group will present and lead discussion on a section of *Parable of the Sower*. You are responsible for a 5-7 image PowerPoint slideshow that highlights major themes, passages, symbols, or objects discussed in the text. This will provide a "rough draft" of the **three** slides you will provide for the StoryMap, due the week of April 23.

The class will provide feedback on what worked and didn't work in your presentation/discussion. We will work collaboratively on drafting a grand narrative for the StoryMap.

Part II: Group Oral Presentation II (25%)

Due: First drafts due April 23 or April 25; **final drafts due April 26 by 6 pm PST** to Melanie Hubbard (Melanie.hubbard@lmu.edu) and Julia Lee (Julia.lee@lmu.edu)

Each group will present their final three slides for the StoryMap. These slides should incorporate feedback from Part I. We will also work on connecting each group's slides into the overall narrative.

I will evaluate the final slides according to 1) use of visual image 2) quality of caption/analysis and 3) incorporation of class feedback and narrative design. We will present the final StoryMap in class on April 27.

Part III: 4-5 pp Written Analysis (50%)

Due: May 4 by 12 noon to Brightspace

Taking one of the themes, symbols, or objects you focused on in your slides, link Butler's novel to a theme or symbol or object in another novel we've read this semester, playing close attention to specific passages and demonstrating your mastery of close-reading. For example, if you choose to write about hyper-empathy syndrome, you might want to link it to W. E. B. Du Bois's concept of double-consciousness, or even Toni Morrison's concept of rememory. Is it a gift or a curse? Is it a legacy of trauma? Other possible themes to consider are migration and movement, gender and racial passing, the legacy of slavery and social death, capitalism and commodity fetishism, power and change.