

Final Paper Assignment

DUE DATES

Part 1: **Abstract** and preliminary **Bibliography** DUE Monday **October 28**. In 250-500 words please state what your paper is about, your central argument or thesis and indicate how you will demonstrate or prove your point. Please include a preliminary bibliography. (Please note, as you develop your paper you will likely want to revise your thesis and expand your research. This document is to help get you started – you can (and should) revise and redirect as you get deeper into your research!!) Please hand in hard copy at the start of class.

Part 2: **Final Paper** DUE Monday **December 2** at 4:00 pm (hard copy and digital copy via Turnitin on Blackboard). Please include your original abstract and preliminary bibliography along with comments.

ASSIGNMENT

This assignment asks you to write a 2,000-word essay about *one* section of the Emerald Necklace (Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum, or Franklin Park) or another Olmsted designed urban park that you can visit while working on this assignment (if you choose the latter, please meet with me before Oct. 28).

Before starting this assignment we will visit the Boston Globe archival collection at Northeastern University Library with Northeastern librarians Molly Brown and Regina Pagani. The collection documents the newspaper's journalism of Greater Boston and New England from circa 1872 to 2003 through articles, images, and other related materials. We will focus on materials tied to the Emerald Necklace as a way of sparking conversation, questions and ideas. To find out more about this collection on line visit: [Boston Globe Library Collection finding aid](#) and [website](#).

Your paper should consist of **three main sections** in addition to an **opening paragraph** in which you clearly present a **thesis or argument** in relation to the material presented and a **conclusion summarizing** your argument.

The three sections should include the following:

1. **Historical Overview.** Please provide an account of the circumstances surrounding the park's establishment. What were the reasons for the creation of the park, its location in the city, its major features and design elements? What were Olmsted's aesthetic aims and how did this relate to broader cultural debates? How did the project support contemporary social reform efforts? What was the park's anticipated role in the life of the city?
2. **Change over time.** Please provide an account of how over time or at one critical moment the form/design/or use of the park was/were significantly altered? How was this tied to larger urban, cultural, or social changes and how did this alter the role of the park in the life of the city?
3. **Present Day.** Please provide an account of how the park operates in the city today. To what extent does this represent a degree of continuity with Olmsted's original plan and to what extent does it depart?

The questions posed above are to help get you thinking. Depending on your approach, different questions may better guide your thinking. Papers might focus on such topics as social reform, landscape design, water management, real estate development, park buildings, or immigration.

Please support your essay with images. Images can come from archives/special collections, books, exhibitions and/or be your original photographs or drawings. Captions should provide a brief explanation of the image and indicate the source of the image in parenthesis.

Ie: Figure 1, Back Bay Fens, circa 1920. (Boston Pictorial Archive)

Utilize material from class readings, lectures, exhibitions, and your research to help you structure and develop your essay. All citations should follow the Chicago Manual of Style format and you must include a bibliography at the end of your paper.

Research:

Please use research to enrich your understanding of Olmsted's urban parks. In addition to course readings or material presented in class and on field trips, each paper should include at least 4 additional scholarly works and/or primary source collections. The selection and use of these materials is part of the assignment. With the enormous quantity of information now available on the internet it is particularly important to be able to gauge the accuracy and reliability of visual and textural information. Please do not use internet sources that have no author such as Wikipedia or unscholarly websites you find through popular search engines such as Google.

For research support please contact Regina Pagani (Arts, Humanities, and Experiential Learning Librarian at Northeastern University Library, r.pagani@northeastern.edu).

For questions about images/photographs in Northeastern Collections, please contact Molly Brown (Archives and Special Collections, Northeastern University, mo.brown@northeastern.edu).

Additional archival collections:

Boston Public Library

Boston Pictorial Archive

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:37720k33n>

(A significant quantity of material is available on line.)

Olmsted Historic Site and Archives <https://www.nps.gov/frla/olmstedarchives.html>

(Please contact the archives directly about visiting, if that is something you choose to do. Some images and maps are digitized and can be consulted without visiting the archive.)

Citations:

For instructions on appropriate footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies go to NU Library Website (home page) and click on "Citations and Bibliographies." Please follow the Chicago Manual of Style Format. Direct specific questions to your teaching assistant or the Research Librarian.

Images:

Number the images you select (ie. Figure 1; *or* Image 1) so that you can refer to them specifically in the essay. Please include labels (short descriptions) under each image. You can decide to integrate the images or put them at the back (this is simpler).

Formatting and other details:

- Please double-spaced text, 1" margins, 12 pt. font (Times New Roman or similar).

- Please paginate your essay.
- Please provide the *word count* at the end of the essay.
- PROOF READ!!