

## Research Paper

The topic for your research paper must be geographically limited to the Cascade Region (including British Columbia). The specific topic is open to student selection; however, the topic is subject to instructor approval, and must remain true to the course's focus on *vernacular* and *preservation* issues.

You are expected to write **an original essay** applying the theory and methodology of vernacular studies to a topic in the Cascade Region. The paper should be anywhere between 3000 to 3500 words long, not including the **table of contents, list of figures** and **bibliography**.

The themes can include but are not limited to any aspect of the vernacular environment that is of interest to you. The paper should also address how these environments are being interpreted in their current setting. I recommend you attempt an original topic of manageable size that would help advance scholarship in vernacular studies. Keep in mind that for this assignment historical research and fieldwork are central.

A quality paper would strive to address each of following requirements listed below-

- 1) Present topic and your take on it
- 2) Compare and contrast your topic with others that emerged out of the readings
- 3) Present your methodology of investigation including fieldwork
- 4) Write clearly and in your own words using a style guide (preferably MLA). For this you may want to refer to the most recent editions of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* and/or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*.
- 5) Use a variety of sources including primary sources

### *Important dates:*

A preliminary research proposal (two pages plus bibliography) is due in class on 15 Feb. Well-developed drafts of the paper would be accepted until March 1. The final research paper is due on **13 Mar by noon** in 410 Gould Hall.