Podcast Assignment Space, Time, Matter 2014

**Prompt: Develop a story about the history of science and record it as a podcast. In your story, describe an episode from the history of science and explain why it is important to how we think about some aspect of science or everyday life today.**

Requirements/Instructions

1. Your story should go beyond material covered in lectures and in your essay, but you can make it about the same topic as your essay (e.g. if your essay was about Heliocentrism and focused on Copernicus, your podcast could focus on Galileo’s heliocentrism.)
2. Your recording should last 3–5 minutes.
3. Recording technology: Microphone+ Recording by 24/7 apps (for use on smartphones) or Audacity on your computer microphone
4. Audio editing technology: Audacity
   1. Either record into your phone, upload the file to your computer and open it with Audacity, or record directly to Audacity.
   2. Use Audacity to edit, cut and polish your audio file. You can find an Audacity tutorial here: <http://www.howtopodcasttutorial.com/17-audacity-tutorial.htm>
   3. Once your file is ready, export it as an MP3. Save the file as [lastname]\_podcast1.mp3 Send the mp3 **and a bibliography and list of anyone you interviewed** to *spacetimematter2014@gmail.com*

Tips

1. Start early: Download Audacity today. Open it, play with it, watch the tutorial videos. Do not wait until the day before the due date to figure out how the software works!
2. Listen: Listen to other podcasts. Radiolab does really involved sound editing, but a lot of podcasts (Story Collider, This American Life, The Moth) have pretty minimal sound editing and still tell really good stories. Listen to what they do in their stories. Listen to how you tell stories to your friends, and how they tell stories to you, which will help you figure out how to frame your podcast story.
3. Write a script/outline: Scripts, notecards, outlines of talking points can all help you organize your thoughts and tell your story.
4. Practice: Talking to a machine is really awkward. The first few times you record yourself, it’s going to sound weird and uncomfortable. It gets easier the more often you do it. This means you will get better takes, and also that it will be less painful to edit the podcast once you get to that stage.

Grading: You will be assessed on the following.

40% Did you submit a listenable file?

30% Accuracy of description of historical episode

25% Reasonableness of explanation why this episode is important

5% Creativity/narrative voice/polish

Penalties: 10% is deducted from your final grade for every 24-hour period that the assignment is late. 20% is deducted for failure to include a bibliography.

COMPLETELY OPTIONAL options that will not affect your grade if you don’t want to do them:

1. Interview someone (a friend, another professor, a scientist, anyone else) and add their perspective to your story.
2. Use other sounds (music, sound effects) to help explain your story.