**Sociology 4107: Gender and Technological Change
Final Project**

For your final project, you are going to do sociological research using the Thermal Flashlight you’ve built in class. This will mean doing actions out in the world to gain knowledge and attempting to make change, documenting that process, then writing it up as a final project document. This is somewhat different than a paper; it will be more like a project white paper or report. As such, you will write this as if it is for a public audience that knows nothing of flashlights, sociology, and feminist technology. Sections of your reports, with attribution, may be part of a public archive for Civic Lab, the citizen science/feminist tech research organization I am founding here at Memorial. You are its first student researchers! I expect your research to be of interest and useful to wider St. John’s and/or academic and/or DIY technology audience. Thus, is should be written accessibly for a general audience.

Your project will have several parts and cover several questions. It will be about 5-7 pages, depending on pictures. You will hand in as a PDF via the D2L dropbox on the day we are scheduled for a final exam. You are welcome to hand things in early. The group will get a grade for the overall project, and individuals will also be graded by their peers (you) on how well they participated in collaborative activities. Your group will create a document about what kind of group you want and you will design an evaluation rubric together (this is another assignment and will be discussed elsewhere- see question 2 on the midterm).

Final Project parameters:

* You have to build a casing for your flashlight (see question 1 on the midterm).
* Your project will focus on a single site for using the flashlight (see question 3 on the midterm).
* You will have a research question and your technology will help you answer that question.
* You will have a public “spectacle” component to your project. This can be part of gathering data (such as Sara Wylie’s “Science as Spectacle: <http://stsdesignworkshop.tumblr.com/>) or it can be part of your data dissemination (See question 4 on the midterm). All this means is that your data collection or data dissemination will be done in public and will draw attention to the project so you open up conversations with people around you about your research.
* You will have a data dissemination component to your project. Once you do your research—gather data and analyze it—you will have to disseminate it (see question 5 on the midterm).
* There must be *at least* four outside sources and *at least* two classroom readings used and cited in the research. Two of your outside sources can be news items; you can have more than that, but only two will count towards this requirement. This is to help you define your problem outside an I-methodology.
* You are expected to make *at least* two research notes on Public Lab. These can be solo or with another group. They can include (but are not restricted to): technical specs on your casing, the spectacle portion of your project, unique uses for the flashlight, raw data for helping others calibrate or otherwise use their flashlights, or an overview of the final project itself. You are welcome to cut and paste portions of your final report.

Organization of Final Project:
*Cover page:*This is not included in the page count. It should include a clear title, the names of members in your group, a Creative Commons license for distributing the paper and images, and a snappy picture. Make it look like something someone wants to pick up. Some of you have talked about making a ‘zine. This final report can be a ‘zine, or sections of this can be a ‘zine.

*First page:*

1. **Clear Statement of Problem or Issue**: In one sentence, state the problem you looked into. In a few other sentences, explain, support, and/or contextualize that problem and why it matters. List aspects of the problem. In many cases, this section acts as an executive summary for busy readers that won’t read the whole thing—make sure everything they need to know is there.
2. **Methodology**:Two or sentences about the Thermal Flashlight and how/where it was used.
3. **List of main findings** **and results.** This can be divided into sections for the technology itself (ie, you found ways to redesign or optimize the technology) as well as for the main things you found out using the technology at your site(s).

*Supporting pages:*

1. A more detailed statement of the problem drawing on research, including background on the problem and its significance in St. John’s or in the wider world.
2. A detailed methodology section; how you did you research. Be sure to be **explicit** about how a thermal flashlight can do sociological research. How does it suss out social relations via heat and make them visible? If you use a theoretical framework to analyze your results, explain them here. This section should include a subsection on “the spectacle.” How did you gather the data itself, and why was it structured that way?
3. Your *sociological* findings. Make sure they are supported. Are you clear about what the evidence is in the case you consider? Are you clear about the breadth of applicability of the evidence you cite? In other words, do you understand the extent to which it is appropriate to generalize from the evidence you draw on? Some evidence is better than other evidence. Do you provide an assessment of evidence quality, as appropriate?
4. Data visualization
5. Feminist technologies: How do your technologies or findings relate to the main tenants of feminist technology? Why bother with a feminist framework? Since this will be for a general, public audience, make this as subtle or as explicit as you think is appropriate.
6. A short summary (1 paragraph) that looks to the future for your issue and recommendations.

These sections can be in any order, even overlapping. Whatever your decision for organization, **use headings and subheadings**.

*Appendix: Technological Findings*

Since this is structured like a project report or white paper, the technical details go at the end. This can include research note you put on public lab, including how and why you built the casing, how you fine-tuned the technology, etc.
It may be that this is suited to a ‘zine format.

*Appendix: Raw Data*

A way to be both transparent and to share data is to provide a copy of your raw data results. This also helps with validity—others can see what you drew your conclusions from. This may include a spreadsheet of temperature readings, a list of things people said to you during your “spectacle,” your temperature maps, field notes, etc.

*Appendix: Bibliography*

Whether you use MLA, Chicago, or other formatting is up to you. Just make it consistent and readable.

**Grading:**(borrowed and adapted from the syllabi of Professor Aili Mari Tripp):

a. *Well defined statement of problem*. Does the paper start out with a clear question or a clear statement of the problem to be addressed? This should be the case in all your academic writing, not just this white paper.

b. *Originality of Ideas*. As appropriate, do your group’s own views and voice come through clearly?

c. *Serious Engagement of Alternative Arguments*. As appropriate, do you seriously consider arguments or popular proposals other than those you make?

d. *Use of Evidence*. Are you clear about what the evidence is in the case you consider? Are you clear about the breadth of applicability of the evidence you cite? In other words, do you understand the extent to which it is appropriate to generalize from the evidence you draw on? Some evidence is better than other evidence. Do you provide an assessment of evidence quality, as appropriate?

e. *Clarity of Presentation*. Are your ideas clearly expressed? Is your paper focused or does it wander? Can a reader easily identify your main points? Are the ideas presented elaborated sufficiently? Are there sign-posts to guide the reader? Are terms defined?

f. *Grammar, Spelling, Citations, Format*. Have you footnoted or cited ideas, facts, and images that are not your own? Of course, all quoted material should appear in quotation marks. All pages should be numbered. Your paper should have a title, and your names should appear on the paper. You should have margins of one inch all the way around. Your paper should be single spaced, and your paper should be stapled in the upper left-hand corner if it is a hard copy, and titled with your last names and the name of the assignment if it is an electronic copy. There should be few spelling and/ or grammatical errors, and there should be clear transitions between sentences and paragraphs.

g. *Organization*. Is the paper organized effectively? Is the sequence of points made logical and clear? Does each paragraph have a central idea that a reader can easily identify. Can the reader skim successfully (this is crucial for a white paper).

h. *Completeness.* Do you have all of the elements requested above? Did you complete the assignment as outlined?

85% of your grade will come from the content of the paper, as outlined above.

15% will come from collaboration evaluations from your group members (unless you negotiate otherwise).

The final project is worth 45% of your grade.