

## Final Project: Halal Carts website

Our class final website will be devoted to the immigration experience as it relates to Halal Carts. We are going to investigate every aspect of the supply/production/consumption/regulatory chain of this NYC staple. Your goal will be not only to document the experiences of people involved, but to contextualize these experiences within the themes of immigration covered all semester and ultimately tell a compelling story. As a class, you will be responsible for generating all the content and design for this website, which will be public-facing, and (we hope) something that any/everyone can read!

There will be five groups, each responsible for generating content for their particular subject. The subjects will be:

- Cart owners and food suppliers
- The cart cooks/workers (2 groups)
- Customers
- City bureaucracy (permits, NYPD, Dept. of Health, immigration lawyers)

Additionally, there will be a **tech committee** made up of **1 member from each group** that will meet separately to make major decisions about the website's technological components and to serve as a liaison with the rest of their group. However, *all members of the group* will be responsible for working on the site itself, and everyone in the class should feel free to communicate their thoughts about the site's layout or design through the tech committee. *You will also be responsible for a final peer assessment report*, outlining your contribution to the website as well as the contributions and dynamic of your group.

Because this is a large project involving eighteen people working together, we will use the collaboration app Slack as a central place to have discussions and to communicate with each other.

*Begin by using some of the questions and issues raised on our brainstorming Google doc.* These are excellent starting off points.

Every group should plan on starting off by speaking with at least one or two cart workers to gather basic information and contacts for other players, such as owners, suppliers, people who transport the carts, lawyers, city workers, etc. This will require some common sense planning; for example, you should not approach a worker when he is extremely busy. It will also require you to be assertive with a stranger – this does not come naturally to everyone, but once you get them talking you will be on your way.

Throughout this process, Jake is always available to work out particular website or design issues, and Prof. Rosenberg is happy to consult about individual content issues. Ultimately, this is *your* project.

## Schedule

**Bold** indicates a hard deadline. All other dates are self-imposed checkpoint deadlines, they indicate steps that you need to do by this time to ensure there's no cramming at the end.

Wed 4/5 – **Class broken into groups and subtopics chosen.** Each group should choose 1 member to be on the tech committee drawn from all groups.

**\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\***

Wed 4/19 – Initial plans established. Each group should have a timeline and rough outline of their research plan, including:

- 1) Outside research (articles, books, etc.). There have been many articles written about Halal Carts, yet many of these deal with superficial aspects (where's the best one? etc.). Still, see what's already been written.
- 2) Plans for interviews – who, what, where, when, how many?
- 3) A list of basic questions that will be asked of interviewees, including what kinds of answers you expect to get and how those answers might be used.
- 4) Main agenda and questions established

Thurs 4/20 – Outside of class, begin interviews and research.

Mon 4/24 – Interviews/research con't.

Wed 4/26 – Explore website themes and come up with schematic for how each subtopic will be presented. Consider how multimedia will be used.

Mon 5/1 – **Rough drafts of copy (text) shared with entire class.** Read everyone else's work and, on Slack, think about how to make sure website presents a unified, cohesive story/presentation. Interviews/research con't.

Wed 5/3 – All interviews and research should be completed by this time. **Tech committee finalize theme choice**, begin populating site.

Mon 5/8 – **Subject text (copy) all finished.**

Wed 5/10 – **Photos, videos, or audio all uploaded**, interfaced with text. Tech committee ensures site navigation is fluid and easy.

Mon 5/15 – In-class user testing.

Wed 5/17 – **Website finished and made public. Individual peer assessment reports due.**