Guide to the Digital Research Project (25%)

The purpose of this digital project is to analyze digital artifacts from the topic you have chosen for social bookmarking through Diigo. In analyzing these artifacts, you will grapple with their significance in terms of global issues discussed in *Controversies in Globalization* and the broad phenomenon of the Arab Uprisings from 2010 to the present.

To enhance the collaborative learning in this class, your digital projects will be shared on your own blog linked to our class website. I encourage you to follow and comment on each other's work, though it is not a graded component of this project.

Project Final Submission Date: Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Instructions
I. **Weekly Research Blogging**: Beginning Sept. 14-19 and continuing for the next ten weeks, you will post to your personal class blog a solid paragraph (five to seven sentences) reflecting on the two items you bookmarked in Diigo during the previous week. Each of these blog entries should point out something important about each bookmarked artifact (i.e., valuable information it contains or interesting human perspectives), and then express your thoughts on how these new pieces of information or perspectives add to what you know or understand about your research topic. You will write ten of these blog entries in all, each of which will be scored as follows: 3 points for each summary and four points scaled for the depth of the reflection, as shown in the sample rubric below. **(100 points total.)**

II. **Final Research Report**: At the end of your 10 weeks of blogging you will compose a reflective summary of what you learned about your topic and how it has changed your understanding of the Middle East. This final research report will be between 1400 and 1600 words excluding footnotes or lists of works cited. A successful reflective summary will not only repeat main ideas or basic descriptions of the 20 artifacts collected through Diigo; it will go beyond that to account for differences in point of view, such as the five perspectives on globalization, and the global systems and influences at play in your artifacts. To do that, you will need to draw on relevant global issues from *Controversies in Globalization* to substantiate your reflections and add nuance to your understanding of the topic. You may compose these documents in whatever format you find most suitable for sharing with the class as your final blog entry: it could be a traditional MLA- or APA-style document attached as a downloadable file, or it could be in a more web-ready form posted directly to your blog as viewable content with embedded links. See the separate rubric for a detailed explanation of how this work will be evaluated. **(100 points total.)**

III. **In-Class Presentation**: In the week before the final submission of your digital project, you will make a brief presentation in class to share some of the most significant ideas you have developed about the topic you researched during the semester. You will only have six minutes, so you may choose to showcase a couple of particularly interesting artifacts you found or you may choose to quickly share more of them and provide a minute or two to describe your general overview of them. **(50 points total.)**

Sample Rubric for the Weekly Research Blogging:

		Points	Comments

WEEK 1
Sept. 14-19
	• Summary of first digital artifact (3)
	• Summary of second digital artifact (3)
	• Reflection on both artifacts (4)
	  1 point: Repeats basic facts from summary.
	  2 points: Identifies some connection to global issue(s).
	  3 points: Applies perspectives on global issue(s).
	  4 points: Shows insight into application of global issue(s).
		10	

Rubric for the In-Class Presentation:

- Uses time effectively   [15 points]
- Stays within six minutes   [5 points]
- Presents useful information about topic   [10 points]
- Applies perspectives on global issue(s)   [10 points]
- Shows insight into application of global issues   [10 points]

General Rubric for the Final Research Summary

- Meets the minimum word count of 1400 words   [20 points]
- Evidence of care in proofreading and revision   [10 points]
- Effectively presents main ideas of artifacts   [10 points]
- Accounts for points of view on globalization   [20 points]
- Accounts for significance to the Arab Uprisings   [20 points]
- Reflects on personal understanding   [20 points]