

Assignment 3**Deadline: 4:00pm, Sunday 15 July, 2018**

This Assignment 3 will be guiding you to finish **part of your Final Group Project**.

As we approach the end of our Big History journey, we would like you to apply the “**big history approach**” to examine an **everyday-life object**. This is what we call “**the Little Big History**”. As defined by the founder of this course, Professor David Christian, the Little Big History has the following criteria:

1. Like all histories, it records **changes over time**.
2. Unlike many histories, your chronological account must include **at least one** time period, event, or piece of evidence dating from **before the evolution of human**.
3. Since Big History uses an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge, your Little Big History should include **knowledge from at least two disciplines**.

The Group task

1. Form a group of 3 to 4 students.
2. Choose an everyday-life object all of you will be interested in. *Pit fall: pop cultural phenomena may be a difficult topic, as they may not have any pre-human history. On the other hand, you cannot choose an object no longer existing nowadays, e.g. living dinosaurs.*
3. Find out everything you can about your object. For examples: How long have people been using X? Where and how did it originate? How has it or its use changed over time? How have different people used it? What were the major changes in its form and use? How does this object of study fit within the concept of thresholds of increasing complexity?
4. Make connections of your chosen object with **at least 2** of the Big History thresholds.
5. Write a 300-400 word summary for your idea on Task 2 to 4 above.

Your summary is to be sent to willmyc@hku.hk.

*Note: For the Final Group Project you will be asked to make connections of your chosen object with **at least 4** of the Big History thresholds (**at least one** threshold from the **pre-human period** and **at least one** threshold from the **post-human period**). So keep this in mind when choosing your object!*

References

Your summary should include **at least 2 references** from appropriate sources, such as journals or newspaper articles. Online sources are equally acceptable as books, so long as they are trustworthy. Websites like Wikipedia or william.com, therefore, should be not cited as your sources.

References should be properly included whenever you refer to others' ideas and opinions. They are also important in enhancing the credibility of your arguments, by showing the readers that your arguments are based on evidences and facts from reliable sources. **You can choose your own style of referencing** so long as an interested reader should be able to locate the references you provide.

Weight and Assessment Criteria

This assignment, together with other assignments, will count for 40% of the course mark. Your summary will be assessed on their **contents**, and the **quality of the presentation**. You may refer to the corresponding document for more details about the marking descriptors.

Policy for Late Submission

Due to the tight schedule for the *Final Group Project*, the grade of this assignment will be penalized by **50% for every day late**.

Plagiarism

Please be reminded that plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be handled seriously with zero tolerance. This means you should provide proper citations whenever you quote others' words or make use of others' ideas. It would be even better for you to integrate ideas from several sources and re-express them in your own way together with your own opinions.