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DH Redesign Of An Existing Introductory Literature Survey

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Digital Project: Timeline

Digital Project Instructions:

I. Introduction to the project, objectives and tools.

Primary Tools: Google Docs (Sheets); Timeline.JS3; images available on the Internet

Over the course of the semester, students will develop a digital project in which they will create a timeline of Spanish letters from its origins through the twenty-first century. The project will draw from student presentations, individual reading and research and class discussions.

[No experience with the primary tools is necessary for this project. See below for specific instructions regarding Timeline.JS3.]

2. Student Work: Image Search and Construction of the Digital Space

For their contribution to the project, each student, working with a partner, will write a critical summary of the material covered in their in-class presentations; search for and compile appropriate visual materials related to the authors, literary movements and/or historical contexts on which they presented, and input their summary and media, along with appropriate supporting data (dates, media sources and captions) into the Google Sheets document.

Instructions for using Timeline.JS3:

1. The Google Sheets document used to populate the timeline has been prepared by the professor. Please follow these steps to submit and configure your contribution correctly. Do not edit the column headings or change any existing data included in the spreadsheet.

     a. **Add dates, text and links to media into the appropriate columns.**

2. **Working with dates**
   The first four spreadsheet columns (**A-D**) are the date of your timeline entry. You can just enter the year, or you can get down to details such as month, day and even time of an event. You *must* enter at least the year, except for a 'title' slide. (To enter BCE dates, use a negative year, such as *-500*)

   You have the option to add end dates (columns **E-H**). Again, you can just enter the year, or you can get as detailed as you like. End dates will cause TimelineJS to display spans of time (a.k.a. eras) in the bottom portion of the timeline. If your event doesn't have an "end date", leave these blank—you don't need to repeat the start date.

   If you need more flexibility about how dates are shown in a slide, you can use column **I** to specify a "display date," which will override any decisions TimelineJS makes about how to show the date. This can be helpful if the actual date is not known, but you need to specify the date so that TimelineJS know how to display it relative to other events. The display date is used on the slide where it is specified, and on labels for the "next" and "previous" buttons which lead to that slide.

3. **Adding content**
   Columns **J** and **K** of the spreadsheet contain the headline and the body text that will be displayed on each slide of your timeline.

4. **Adding media**
   TimelineJS can pull in media from a variety of sources and has built-in support for Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, Google Maps, DropBox, DocumentCloud, Wikipedia, SoundCloud, Storify, iframes, major video sites (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) and more.

   You have the option to add media to your slides in columns **L-O**. Under the **Media** column (**L**) enter the link (URL) to the media you wish to display. TimelineJS supports multiple media types. In the next column (**M**), you can credit the media's original source, and in column **N** you can include a short caption.

   If you like, you can set the background of the slide to a specific color or an image. To do this, enter a CSS hex color value, CSS named color, or the URL to an image in the **Background** column (**R**).