# Museum Pedagogy Project

## UNESCO Perspective

Sustainable

## General Use Bucket

Extending Assignment Creativity and Capabilities

## Goal

The initial goal for this project was to create an assignment for a unit on Islam in a World Religion course. As the interaction with Copilot continued, the project turned into a final project for the whole course, and not just a single unit in the course. I was looking to create an Open Pedagogy-style project, which empowers students to become knowledge creators, producing materials that provide learning outside and beyond anything that they receive in the classroom or from the instructor. This kind of project requires students to research, explore, and assemble materials in a way that helps them absorb while doing, helps them learn by teaching.

## Tool Used

Copilot

## The Process

What we do with prompts will define what kinds of materials we get from AI. The better the prompts, and the better a sequence of prompts, the more useful the materials will be that any AI generates.

This project started this way--I asked Copilot to create an assignment for college students focused on Islam. This is a barely adequate prompt. It did define the age and education group, and a general topic. But otherwise, this was not nearly specific enough!

But Copilot gave me a decent enough list of 10 ideas, and the 10th item was intriguing: "Design a virtual museum exhibit showcasing important artifacts, manuscripts, and artworks from Islamic history. Provide detailed descriptions and historical context for each item.”

I asked for more structure and detail for this project and got a very good listing of what would need to be included in any instructions for this kind of assignment, given to me as a broad outline. This is the point where I decided that this assignment was too big for just one unit, and I switched the rest of the prompts to looking at this as a final project for the class.

AI gave me two different free software platforms that could host a museum exhibit. I had never heard of the platforms suggested, so I asked for more information about them, including providing videos of how to use them. The links were immediately provided. I went and checked out the linked sites, played with them a bit, and realized that although they were fairly useable, that students would need help in learning how to use them for an assignment.

Because students would need help learning how to set up an account and use either of these platforms, I asked Copilot for detailed instructions on how to do this by giving me detailed steps, including links to videos showing those steps. These were listed, with YouTube training links and explanations of what each link contained.

I realized that the images that students were going to load into either platform really needed narrative in order to explain their choices, so I asked for information about how to add narrative to their images in each platform. And Copilot obliged, including some training links on this as well.

Once I had enough raw materials and information, I could then create the assignment document, including a secondary option for an alternative assignment. I created this second assignment without Copilot, as it was something I had tried a little before--pairing photography with definitions and descriptions. This alternative assignment was provided so that students who did not have the technology or the comfort in doing the museum exhibit assignment could still do something similar to that, but with lower tech and easily accessible to all students.

## Final Product

### At this point, I was able to start assembling how I wanted the assignment to read in D2L. The final project now looks like this, with 2 options (Copilot helped design the one, and I created the other)

## FINAL PROJECT--Two Options

You have looked, at least on the surface, at 10 or more different world religions. They are varied in style and content, and they have cultural roots that make each tradition culturally bound in various ways.

You are going to pick one of these two following options for a final project. Please read through the instructions here for more information before making your choice. Scroll down to see both Option 1 and Option 2 explained in detail.

**Option 1 is asking you to create a digital museum exhibit**

**Option 2 is asking you to write about and illustrate various religious vocabulary with photography.**

See more details below! Look for the globe to show you the beginning of the instructions for each option.

The assignment will be done in several steps. If you are doing Option 1—the one about exhibits—I want you to send me your topic and the platform that you are using by May 1. I will suggest edits or approve this for you to get going.

If you are doing Option 2, I want you to send me the terms you plan on defining and illustrating by May 1. Sometimes people pick people or things (even a building is a thing, you know) and I need to have them adjust their picks. The folder for the May 1 submission is listed below this link.

**SO--whichever Option you choose, do some thinking about what you need to submit by May 1. Don't miss that step! I need to hear from you, and if I don't, you are going to miss out on some points and some valuable feedback!**

## Project Option 1:

#### Steps to Create a Virtual Museum Exhibit

Choose a Platform:

Decide on the platform you will use to create your virtual exhibit. The two options include **Google Arts & Culture** or **Artsteps**. Detailed instructions for how to use each of these follows at the end of this option narrative.

Select a Theme:

Determine the central theme of your exhibit. Options might include one of these:

1. A specific period in your religion’s history,
2. A focus on art, architecture, science, or literature within the religion. (NOT all of these, please)
3. A biographical exhibit of a key person within the faith.
4. Other—please check the topic with Jody before starting work! There could be some great ideas, but check them out with me, OK?

##### Research and Curate Content:

* **Artifacts and Images:** Gather high-quality images of artifacts, manuscripts, artworks, and architectural marvels. Ensure you have the right to use these images or determine whether they are in the public domain. You can do some of this searching within the platforms. You can also search places like [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) for images that are in the public domain.
* **Descriptions and Context:** Write detailed descriptions for each item, explaining its historical and cultural significance. Include information about the item's origin, use, and any interesting stories associated with it.

##### Organize Your Exhibit:

* **Layout:** Plan the layout of your virtual exhibit. Decide how visitors will navigate through the exhibit and in what order they will view the items.
* **Sections:** Divide your exhibit into sections or rooms, each focusing on a different aspect of your theme. For example, if your theme is Islamic art, you might have sections on calligraphy, ceramics, textiles, and architecture.

##### Consider Creating Interactive Elements:

* **Audio and Video:** Think about including audio descriptions, or interviews with experts, or video clips to make the exhibit more engaging.
* **Quizzes and Activities:** Add interactive elements like quizzes, puzzles, or virtual tours to enhance the learning experience.

##### Design and Aesthetics:

* **Visual Design:** Pay attention to the visual design of your exhibit. Use colors, fonts, and layouts that are visually appealing and consistent with your theme.
* **User Experience:** Ensure that the exhibit is easy to navigate and accessible to all users. Test the exhibit to make sure all links and interactive elements work smoothly.

##### Launch and Share:

* **Publish:** Once your exhibit is complete, publish it on your chosen platform.
* **Promotion:** Share your exhibit with your classmates, professor, and on social media. Consider hosting a virtual launch event where you can give a guided tour of the exhibit. (Or make a video of that tour to submit as your assignment!)

#### Example Themes for Your Exhibit

* **Golden Age of Islamic Science**: Highlight contributions to mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and engineering.
* **Rastafarian music and culture**: include interviews, performances, examples of Rasta artwork
* **Christian Calligraphy and Manuscripts**: Showcase beautiful examples of calligraphy and illuminated manuscripts.
* **Hindu Architecture**: Explore famous structures like the Taj Mahal or other important buildings in the Hindu world.
* **Hasidic Jewish folklore**: choose stories and illustrations from the Hasidic world of Judaism.

#### Additional Tips

* Collaborate: If possible, consult or explore people who are experts in the field to enrich your exhibit.
* Get Feedback: Seek feedback from peers to improve your exhibit before the final launch.

**Creating a virtual museum exhibit is a fantastic way to delve deeply into religious history and culture while developing valuable research, design, and digital skills. Enjoy the process, and I'm sure your exhibit will be both educational and inspiring! If you have any specific questions or need further assistance, feel free to ask.**

#### **Here are step-by-step instructions for using both Google Arts & Culture and Artsteps to create your virtual museum exhibit:**

##### Google Arts & Culture Access the Platform: [Google Arts and Culture Site](https://www.youtube.com/watch)

* Visit the Google Arts & Culture website or download the app from the App Store or Google Play.
* Create an Account:
	+ If you have a gmail account, you are all set. If you don’t, create a gmail account (you never have to use it, but it is your Google account for all the apps that they have) so that you can access all the functions of the Arts and Culture Site. Sign in with your account.
* Explore Collections:
	+ Use the search bar to find specific artwork, museums, or themes within the site. You can also browse by categories such as artists, mediums, art movements, historical events, and more. If you find something outside of Google Arts and Culture, you can upload it as one of your favorites, but make sure it is in the public domain if you want to do that. Do NOT use current art from a living artist, for example.
* Create Your Own Collection:
	+ Click on the "Favorites" icon (heart symbol) on each item to save artwork or exhibits that you like. You will then go to your profile and select "Favorites" to view and organize your saved items.
* Build a Virtual Exhibit:
	+ Use the "Create" feature to compile your favorite items into a curated collection. Add descriptions and context to each item to explain its significance. Share your collection with others by generating a shareable link.

Creating a collection with a narrative in Google Arts & Culture is a fantastic way for you to engage with religious art, people, beliefs, and history. Here are the very specific steps to guide you through the process:

###### Detailed Steps to Create a Collection with Narrative in Google Arts and Culture

* Access Google Arts & Culture:
	+ Visit the Google Arts & Culture website or open the app.
* Sign In:
	+ Ensure you are signed in with your Google accounts to save and share your collections.
* Explore and Select Artworks:
	+ Use the search bar or browse through categories to find artworks, artifacts, or exhibits you want to include in your collection.
	+ Click on the heart icon to "favorite" the items you want to add to your collection.
* Create a New Collection:
* Go to the "Favorites" section by clicking on the heart icon at the top right corner.
* Click on "Create a new collection" and give it a title.
* Add Artworks to the Collection:
* Select the artworks from your favorites and add them to the new collection.
* Add Narrative:
* Click on the collection to open it.
* Use the "Edit" button to add descriptions, historical context, and personal insights for each artwork. This is where you can craft your narrative.
* Share the Collection:
	+ Once the collection is complete, you can share it by clicking on the "Share" button and copying the link or sharing it directly through the assignment folder.

###### Helpful Video Tutorials

* [Google Arts & Culture: Creating Collections for Online Exhibits](https://www.artsteps.com/?v=DHQ6yFSVTLo) by Dr. Kevin Jenkins (11:33 minutes)
	+ This video shows how to create a collection and use it for various assignments, including virtual exhibits.
* [Building Your Own Galleries with Google Arts and Culture](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPzManDaN3Y) by NOCS Instructional Technology (4:25 minutes)
	+ A quick guide on how to build and share galleries. It is aimed at teachers, but the instruction is clear for anyone.
* [Google Arts & Culture Tutorial (Part 1)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaGvYLrKNHY) by Teacher's Teacher (9:38 minutes)
	+ This tutorial covers the basics of navigating and using the platform.

##### Artsteps (this one is a little trickier to use, but very fun for those who like technology!)

General information about using Artsteps:

* + Sign Up and Log In:
		- Visit the [Artsteps website](https://www.youtube.com/watch) and create an account. Log in to access the platform's features.
	+ Define Your Space:
		- Click on "Create" to start a new project. Use the tools to define the space of your virtual gallery by placing walls and selecting colors and textures
	+ Design Your Space:
		- Customize the appearance of your gallery by painting walls and floors and adding textures. Switch between different views to ensure your design looks good from all angles.
	+ Add and Place Artifacts:
		- Upload images, videos, and 3D models of the artifacts you want to display. Drag and drop these items into your gallery space, adjusting their position, size, and frame as needed. Add titles and descriptions to each item to provide context and information.
	+ Plan a Guided Tour:
		- Create guide points throughout your gallery to lead visitors through a narrative or thematic journey. Add text, audio, or video to each guide point to enhance the storytelling experience.
	+ Publish and Share:
		- Once your exhibit is complete, publish it on Artsteps.
		- Share your virtual gallery with others by providing a link or embedding it on your website or social media

###### Details in Accessing and Using Artsteps

#### ***1. Accessing Artsteps***

* Website: Go to the [Artsteps website](https://www.youtube.com/watch).
* Sign Up: Click on the "Sign Up" button at the top right corner of the homepage.

#### ***2. Creating an Account***

* Fill in Details: Enter your email address, create a password, and fill in other required details.
* Verification: Check your email for a verification link and click on it to verify your account.
* Login: Once verified, log in to your account using your email and password.

#### ***3. Creating an Exhibit***

* Start a New Exhibit:
	+ After logging in, click on "Create" at the top of the page.
	+ Choose "Create New Exhibition" from the dropdown menu.
* Define Your Space:
	+ Select a template or create your own space by placing walls, doors, and other structural elements.
	+ Video Tutorial: [ARTSTEPS - Step1: Define Your Space](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jp8d2294ys) (1:34 minutes)
* Design Your Space:
	+ Apply textures and colors to the floor and walls to customize your exhibit space.
	+ Video Tutorial: [Artsteps - Create your Own Virtual Exhibition](https://www.artsteps.com/login?v=GpL-Z-XcTzo) (1:00 minute)
* Add Artifacts:
	+ Upload images, videos, texts, and 3D objects to your exhibit.
	+ Arrange them within your space as desired.
	+ Video Tutorial: [Artsteps - Tutorial](https://www.artsteps.com/?v=ObqApceJCfg) (22:05 minutes)
* Plan a Guided Tour:
	+ Add points of interest and adjust the camera angles to create a guided tour of your exhibit.
	+ Video Tutorial: [Building Your Own Virtual Art Gallery on Artsteps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F44Q7bQRktc) (28:47 minutes)
* Publish Your Exhibition:
	+ Capture a representative image of your gallery.
	+ Edit the title and description of your exhibition.
	+ Make your exhibition public by toggling the admission button.
	+ Video Tutorial: [ARTSTEPS - Step 5 - Publish your Exhibition](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rAHx6AX1s8) (1:44 minutes)

###### Helpful Instructional Videos

1. [ARTSTEPS - Step1: Define Your Space](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jp8d2294ys) by teachandlearn1 (1:34 minutes)
2. [Artsteps - Create your Own Virtual Exhibition](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpL-Z-XcTzo) by Artsteps (1:00 minute)
3. [Artsteps - Tutorial](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObqApceJCfg) by RobotnTIC (22:05 minutes)
4. [Building Your Own Virtual Art Gallery on Artsteps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F44Q7bQRktc) by Digital Creator North (28:47 minutes)
5. [ARTSTEPS - Step 5 - Publish your Exhibition](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rAHx6AX1s8) by teachandlearn1 (1:44 minutes)

These steps and resources should help you create engaging virtual exhibits on Artsteps.

**Both platforms offer unique features that can help you create an engaging and educational virtual "museum" exhibit.**

* **Don't forget a bibliography in whatever platform you use--or submit it as a separate document**. What resources have you used? Texts? Videos? Interviews? Web sites? I need to have that information!

## Project Option 2:

You will be working with photography and writing in this option. You must choose **2 terms from each of the two** religions that you choose for this project, and they must be from among those religions that we have been looking at.

**Examples might include *salvation* and *incarnation* from Christianity, or *moksha* and *caste* from Hinduism, or *nirvana* and *karma* from Buddhism**, etc.

**But pick two terms from each of two faith traditions--4 terms total.** (I want you to exclude people, places, and things from this paper--don't include things such as begging bowls, or prayer wheels, or a worship space, or something else physical.)

 Each of these terms should be dealt with in this way:

1. **Define the term**. Give me 2 good solid paragraphs (this will mean more than one-two sentences!) defining what this term is, and how it is used in this particular faith tradition. Again, please do not choose a thing--no prayer beads, no crosses, no mosques, etc. I want a concept--something that is important to the tradition but not a physical place or person or thing. The definition should come from a solid source, not just your own idea alone, so use an article, a film, a religion dictionary (not just Webster's, for example).
2. **Include the photo you have chosen**. You can use one of your own, one a friend has taken, or something that you find on the Internet, although you need to be very careful about what you use from online, as there could be copyright issues. Some sites will allow you to link to or use their photos, and some will not. (I would prefer to have the picture embedded in the text, and not just a link, but if there is just the perfect thing that you cannot show me any other possible way...) **Also--please do not go, say, to a Buddhist site and just choose something that *they* think illustrates Nirvana.** I get that there is all sorts of stuff out there. Please--spend a little time thinking about this and pick an image that YOU believe fits the term, not something a professional web site tells you that they think fits. **I much prefer personal photos**, but I need you to make your case carefully for what you choose.

One thing that shows up over and over is this picture for Karma--

**PLEASE do not use this kind of thing (as an example for karma)**. 

I get it--this is easy. But I want you to really think about whatever terms you use and find your own example of the term, not something that shows up in a generic Google search, OK? Great!

1. **Tell me why this photo illustrates the term**. I want about a page of explanation for each photo. Tell me what it is about the photo that captured you and why you link it to the concept that you are discussing.
2. **Include a bibliography for definitions, photos and any other resource you might have used**. I would expect about 6-7 pages for this assignment option, as you need that paragraph and a full page of narrative for each of 4 photos. Please use at least 2 other sources than the materials provided for you in this course (so more than the films, articles, and narratives from me...).

This final project option is one half of the final exam points. It is worth 100 points. The other half of the exam is vocabulary/definitions, people, dates and concepts. It is worth 100 points.