

189OM | Week 2 Assignment

Bring an Occult Media Object to Class!



Knapp-Hall Tarot Deck.
Courtesy of Philosophical
Research Society



A spirit box from Ghost
Adventures. Courtesy of The
Travel Channel/Discovery +



Cecil Williamson's Scrying
Mirror. Courtesy of The
Witchcraft Museum

Assignment Overview

Bring a media object that is *not a feature film or TV show*, to share with the class next week (October 3) and be prepared to speak about it for 1–2 minutes. Send me a photo of or link to the object ahead of class so we can project the image, if necessary. In addition to bringing the object, you'll turn in a one-page single-spaced reflection via Canvas, details below.

Guidance for Finding Your Object and Writing a Reflection . . .

1. Consider what might qualify as an occult media object—start with a kind of media, not necessarily digital (although digital objects are not prohibited!). What kind of occult representation have you come across in popular culture that isn't a film? Get creative and think about different objects, toys, communication devices, artwork, or music that has some kind of occult quality about it.
2. Once you find your media object, think about how you might present it to the class who may not know anything about the occult quality you're discussing. What makes it occult? Is it associated with a particular practice or historical context? Be sure to define "occult" and how you're using it with reference to this object.
3. Detail how you found this form of media—did you know about it beforehand, or did you discover it as a result of this assignment? Take me through your navigation of an archive, online or in person (or unofficial)—what searching engines or techniques did you use? Did you find it in a friend's garage, from your own collection, in a museum, an online archive, or somewhere else? Do not say you found it on Google; instead, trace that object to the site or archive it's from and tell me about who has it in their possession, who has written about it, where it's located, etc.
4. What drew you to this object in particular? Were you able to get ahold of a physical object or did you have to find one online? If the former, what were the barriers to your finding a physical object to bring to class?

5. Do you have any lingering questions about the origins of this object or what occult meaning it contains or mediates? Are there connections to films or other forms of media that this particular object makes you think about?
6. Add any other thoughts you might have on this object or curiosities that resulted from this preliminary search.