

FALL 2010 SP. 401 –Assignment #3; Final Reflection

Length: 7 pages, typed, double-spaced (Times, New Roman, 12pt.)

Final Reflection: ½-1 page, typed, double-spaced.

This assignment provides the opportunity to integrate your knowledge on specific topics in gender studies, drawing from course material. While you should primarily focus on materials from the latter part of SP.401, you can also integrate historical material presented earlier in the term. You will need to draw examples from readings (or films) to support your points; use parenthetical citations to document sources (see citation handout). Be sure to introduce quotes adequately, creating smooth transitions between your writing and that of sources. **Note:** Assignment #3 does not have a revision process.

The Gender Museum Exhibit

Assume, for the purposes of this assignment, that you are designing a gender studies museum exhibit primarily for adults entitled “Gender, Work and Families.” (“Work” means any purposeful activity, including housework and family caregiving, volunteering and paid employment.) Write a short informative essay (5 pgs.) that will introduce viewers to the gender issues and critical questions in the exhibit, drawing explicitly upon at least **six** readings. (Orient the essay to a popular readership with a **thesis or “mapping” statement** that previews the approach of the exhibit.) Think of yourself as a museum educator; the essay should motivate engagement with the exhibit. It’s often best to pose critical questions and open up new ways of thinking about gender than advocating particular position(s). Think of this essay as a museum brochure.

Following the essay, list at least **ten** different items you will display (in order) with a brief interpretive caption for each (2 pgs.). (Display items can include timelines, charts or graphs, advertisements, clips from films or TV shows, excerpts from readings or newspaper articles, photos, etc. Including images from the Internet can be helpful.) Your focus can be global as well as national. The essay should refer to some, but not necessarily all, of the items on display.

This exhibit could explore issues such as the following: gender socialization; the history of women in the U.S. workforce; the gendered wage gap; sex segregation in the labor force; discrimination based on gender, gender identity/expression or sexual orientation in the workplace; anti-discrimination/equal opportunity legislation; “glass ceilings” and “sticky floors”; affirmative action; parental and family leave and related benefit policies in the U.S. and other countries; the division of labor in households; the value of housework and family caregiving; the diversity of families (what constitutes a “family”); global dimensions of gendered work, such as outsourcing and “care chains”; position of women and men in business and the professions, especially science and engineering; gender and entrepreneurship. Do not feel that you have to cover all these issues, but be sure to include topics related to family caregiving as well as to workplace experience.

Final Reflection: In what ways has *Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies* influenced your thinking about gender in society and in your own life? (1/2-1pg.)

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SP.401 / WGS.401 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Fall 2010

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