

Research Paper (Individual 5-7 Pages, Collaborative 6-8 Pages)

Due: December 15th

Weight: 25% (if outline submitted) or 35%

In this assignment you'll build on previous assignments (discussion posts, reflections, proposal) to write a 5–7 page research essay.

You can write on any topic as long as it's related to trans studies (and its tangents, non-binary embodiments, third gender, genderfluid, 2 spirit...etc). Make sure to include **at least 2 sources from the class and at least 2 sources outside of course content**.

For this paper, what I'm really looking for is reading your perspective. So, what is your viewpoint? How do you use the research to craft an argument? As such, most of you are likely to write specifically argumentative papers.

You're welcome to work collaboratively in this assignment as well (as a continuation from the proposal). If you choose this collaborative option, the word limit increases a bit.

Please include a work cited page (not included in word count) with proper in-text citations (I like MLA, but any style is ok as long as it's consistently used). My preference for in text is (Author, page).

How should this assignment look?:

12 point font (any easily legible font is ok, my favourite is Calibri)

Double spaced

Name, Date, class name at top left, example:

Sam Sanchinel

December 13, 2021

Intro to Trans Studies

Title : Can either be informative or creative or anything EXCEPT "Essay"

Example titles I've written:

From the Medical Professional as "Sphinx" to the Entrance into Trans Dreams: Psychoanalytic Approaches to Trans Patients Seeking HRT or GCS

The Godly "I am" of Trans Identity

Have I Been Seduced by Baudrillard?, and, in extension, Am I Real?

The Seduction/Universal Singularity of Gender: A Posttranssexual Prophecy

Tengo Sueño: A Cross-* Historical Latinx Dream of Borders, Religion, and Trans Identity

Length: Individual 5-7 pages, Collaborative 6-8 pages (if you want to do a creative project talk with me and we can work through it. It would most likely consist of the project and a 2-3 page write-up)

Rationale: This is a *summative* assignment. This assignment is meant to show what you know and how you can apply it into a clear, coherent, strong argument. You're welcome to focus your topic outside of the themes of the course, though make sure it's still related to trans studies.

As such, with a summative rationale, you'll be graded on *what* you write (the content of your argument), and *how* it is justified (the strength of your argument).

Structure and Organization: Make sure to have a clear introduction that includes a thesis statement that states your argument for your paper and the directions you plan to take.

Example thesis + statement of enumeration: As such, in this paper I will expand on a psychoanalytic concept of dreaming by referring to my mom's dreams, and my own, in relation to the various crosses we carry (crossing the border, the cross of Christ, and a 'crossing' of gender.) In these dreams I will open a dialogue with my mom and the Latina theology of Ada María Isasi-Díaz.

Example Thesis + Statement: As such, in this paper I will argue that by understanding gender through "seduction" and "single universalism" one could re-inhabit gender as an ethical prophetic/apostolic position. In this argument I will speak to trans identities specifically as examples of a prophetic embodiment of gender.

Further, make sure to use a formal essay formatting. Generally, that means you have an intro, body, and conclusion. You can have any number of body points, but for the length of the paper it might be ideal to have around 3.

In the conclusion you can just resummarize your argument, or include questions/ideas of where it can go.

Be sure to use distinct paragraphs. No paragraph should be a page long! Rather, whenever a new subject starts, start a new paragraph. This very much helps with organization of your argument.

2 Course Readings and 2 Outside readings: You're more than welcome to refer to more than two each. Course readings include anything in the syllabus (including assigned, optional, and "adventure" texts).

Further, the outside readings don't *need* to be scholarly. Though, in either case, make sure to vet what the source says.

Please include a works cited page, along with proper citations.

I'm happy to help anyone if you're struggling with finding sources.

Style: I recommend using the first-person "I" in writing the paper.

******** If you need help thinking of ideas, where to look for research, or just want to discuss your thoughts, please reach out!

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Essay Content and Comprehension 3/5 of grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay is clear, detailed and always easy to follow. - remains focused on the topic at hand - Body points are well chosen and serve as excellent justifications of the argument - The argument itself is well justified - Main voice remains the authors (not overrun by quotations) - At least 2 readings from the course and 2 outside readings are used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay is mostly focused - Essay is mostly clear; may not have enough detail or be always easy to follow. - Body paragraphs are well-chosen, though may be less strong - Some holes in argument - Main voice remains the authors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay lacks focus - Essay is not very easy to follow; ideas do not always come across clearly. - Body points are often poorly chosen that only somewhat relate to argument - Too many quotations obscure authors voice - Only 2 sources used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay jumps around ideas too much - Essay argument is hard to follow. - Quotations or examples are poorly chosen. - Authors voice is completely obscured - No sources are used 	
Organization of ideas 1/5th of grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay is logically organized and ideas are easily followed. - Uses effective, smooth, and logical transitions. - A distinct position is being argued in a thesis - Essay is between 5-7 pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay has a clear organizational structure though there are some digressions, ambiguities and irrelevances. - Transitions are occasional. - Includes a good thesis - Essay is somewhat too long or too short. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay has some organizational structure, though paragraphs may be too long or too short - There are many digressions, or ambiguities - Includes a thesis that lacks aim - Essay is too long or too short 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no apparent organization to the Essay - There is no thesis - There are no or poor transitions. - Essay is entirely too long or too short. 	
Quality of written expression 1/5th of grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few punctuation or mechanical errors. - Tone is clear, consistent and appropriate for the paper - Guidelines with regards to the presentation of the paper were respected, including citations and works cited page - Word choice is excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some punctuation or mechanical errors - Tone is mostly consistent - Most guidelines respected - Minimal errors with citations or works cited page - Word choice is good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many punctuation and/or mechanical errors - Tone is too casual or inappropriate for the paper - Guidelines are mostly ignored - Many errors with citations and references - Many strange word choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too many punctuation and/or mechanical errors. - Ideas are hard to follow because of writing problems. - No works cited or citations - Word choice is off 	

Research Paper Rubric

