

Gender Reflection (Essay or Creative)

Due: September 22 – 29

Weight: 10%

In this assignment I'm asking you to consider your (or a fictional character's if you prefer) gender identity and expression and further consider the variety of ways you understand and embody it. Since this is a class with pre-requisites, please connect 2 previous concepts from other courses (or wherever else you've learned from) that can help you think through identity. The assignment should fall within 2-3 pages (600-900 words).

NOTE: You can take a more creative approach as well. If you want to make a video it should be 4-6 minutes (same thing with a podcast) and make sure to submit a transcript. We can chat further about other creative options in completing this assignment.

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

Sept 20, 2021

Intro to Trans Studies

Title : can be Gender Reflection, or it could be something else! I like puns in my titles when I write stuff.

Length: 600 – 900 words (2 to 3 full pages). 50 words over or under is OK. Podcast or Video: 4 – 6 mins (over or under 30 seconds)

Rationale: This is a *diagnostic* assignment. Part of it being diagnostic is why it's so early in the term. I'd like to know what you know in the area of gender studies and how you apply it. There're no worries if you don't *know* any formal theories. But! Think about how culture, religion, class status, race have affected you and your gender identity (or a fictional characters!) You're welcome to use youtube videos, poems, art, movies, tv shows, music, etc. to help explain as well! (Those can count as a source).

You will not be graded on the "quality" of *what* you know. Rather, it's *how* you apply what you already know.

2 Concepts: You're more than welcome to refer to two concepts, but when you introduce them make sure to *explain what they mean*. There's a lot of range of the types of concepts out there that you can use, and we can discuss about this. The explanation should be too long, probably 1 to two sentences. Also, the concepts shouldn't just be introduced and then abandoned. Work with them through the assignment.

Structure and Organization: There are no formal requirements outside of length, time and coherence.

When writing you generally want to start with a summary of what you'll talk about and a sentence that highlights your main point (loosely put, a thesis). And then you talk about it in more depth, to end with a nice conclusion.

Further, you want your assignment to remain somewhat focused. Keep the topic on gender identity, expression, and embodiment (part of the *how* of application).

Lastly, in line with focus, you want your assignment to make sense. If you'll be talking about to different aspect to a gender expression think about transitional sentences, and ways so that it doesn't sound like there are two assignments being written.

Depth: You can choose to be as personal or impersonal as you'd like. I'm not asking you to highlight any vulnerabilities or areas of uncomfortability (hence fictional character option!) Though, you're more than welcome to take it that route, and it will remain between us (unless you state otherwise).

STYLE: YOU 'RE WELCOME TO BE AS CREATIVE AS YOU 'D LIKE. Some ideas I was thinking that could work include A recipe (Sam: 5 teaspoons of dysphoria and 1 cup of religious guilt, and a dash of salt), an infographic, a long form poem), a letter (Dear, Mom...). Lots of options (though an essay is always classic to).

Also, you're allowed to approach this in the way you'd like. Do you want to have fun with it? Do you want to get personal? Do you want to remain formal? All of the above? There's lot's of possibility in this assignment.

Useful concepts: Intersectionality, social construction, expression, performativity, heteronormativity, stealth, patriarchy, homonormative, transnormative, killjoy (Sara Ahmed), feminist

(note: you're welcome to use any, and not use any. This is just a list of common terms in gender studies that can help get you rolling)

Sources: If you'd like to include pictures you can though make sure to cite its source. That goes with anything else being referenced that is not your own idea, it should be referenced in text (Author Page) and in a works cited page (MLA or APA is good – check out for author page: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

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Rubric: Please make sure to see the rubric for a breakdown on how you'll be graded!

Please Note at the Bottom of your Assignment: if you're okay with this being shared with the class (no worries if not, and if you forget to include a note I'll assume no). I just love reading other peoples work, and it helps us see the personhood in eachother!

I will be posting an example Gender Reflection in the incoming days!

Good examples:

<https://www.autostraddle.com/names-i-have-been-called/#comments>

<https://www.autostraddle.com/investigating-the-bionicle-to-trans-pipeline/#comments>

[autostraddle.com/fat-trans-and-working-on-being-fine-with-it-168108/](https://www.autostraddle.com/fat-trans-and-working-on-being-fine-with-it-168108/)

<https://www.autostraddle.com/queer-hair-study-abroad-india/>

