

**CTI 221/WST 221: Gender, Sexuality, and Global Culture
Spring 2021; Dr. Cotter**

Essay 2 Assignment

20 Points (20 % of Final Grade) DUE: Friday, April 16 by 8:00PM (Moodle/Turnitin.com)

Gender, Sexuality, Global Culture, Ideology and Power Relations

The second essay should be a five (5) page minimum, double-spaced, typed **cultural critique and analytical argument**. It will acknowledge and document all sources used in the essay (including any visual texts) by following the MLA documentation format.

The essay will produce a "close critical analysis" or "ideology critique" of a specific (and documentable) cultural text of your choosing (for example, a graphic novel, image, advertisement, viral-video, news report, cultural meme, social media post, etc.,). In critically reading a cultural text, the paper will situate it in the context of critical discussion of at least two theoretical texts (that you have not used on your previous essay) and engage such issues as the relationship of representations of gender and/or sexuality to: ideology, history, systemic discrimination, social and economic inequality, sexism, heterosexism, racism, Eurocentrism and "non-Western" cultures, colonization, immigration, commodification, exploitation, harassment or violence against others...

The purpose of the paper is to *analyze critically and conceptually* (not simply descriptively) how culture produces ideological meanings and values that *conceal, normalize or naturalize* social and systemic inequality, oppression, discrimination, violence against "others," exploitation... so that they become part of people's cultural unconscious and uncritically accepted in everyday life. In this essay you will go a step further than examining the social construction of meanings of gender and/or sexuality and their relation to race, class, nation and/or global issues (as was the main focus of Essay 1) by *also* critically analyzing the *relationship* of a cultural representations to underlying social and material conditions of life and systemic social inequalities that need to be confronted not ignored. The essay is a *critique* and "undoing" of the way cultural practices and meanings can ideologically obscure, normalize, "excuse" or represent as natural (i.e., as common sense) forms of systemic injustice, power relations and/or social inequality that need to be exposed, analyzed, critiqued and changed.

Required Texts: In the course of developing your discussion, analysis and argument you should make use of four required texts along the following specifications:

- A) Two (2) theoretical texts from the course thus far that you have not used on Essay 1.
Note: The one exception: you *may* use Nealon and Giroux again, however, you must use a different chapter or chapters from your previous essay (and this will, again, count as only one required text).
- B) One (1) cultural text: e.g., Kamatani's *Our Dreams at Dusk*, Satrapi's *Persepolis 2*, or another *documentable* cultural text such as an image, advertisement, news story or other *cultural representation* of gender and/or sexuality and global culture that you wish to substantively analyze and critique. This can be from in-class or outside but it must be a specific text that you can document in your Works Cited.