

MAJOR ESSAY TOPICS
PPAL 6130.30 Equity, Policy, Law and Planning
DUE DATE: JULY 14, 2012

USING THE READINGS, DISCUSSIONS AND RESOURCES OF THE CLASS, WRITE AN ESSAY ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- 1) **ONE OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ECONOMIC PRESUMPTIONS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION IS THAT THERE IS A ‘BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY’. HOWEVER, IN THE BOOK *SELLING DIVERSITY*, YASMEEN ABU-LABAN AND CHRISTINA GABRIEL (2006) NOTE THAT THE CURRENT “MANAGING DIVERSITY MODEL” IS BASED ON AN ECONOMIC RATIONALISM THAT HAS RENDERED A PROFOUNDLY NARROW VISION OF DIVERSITY. EXPLAIN AND ANALYSE.**

- 2) **BEGINNING IN THE 1970S, THE DISCRIMINATION THAT WOMEN FACE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY RESEARCHERS AS “THE GLASS CEILING” EFFECT. TODAY THE PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT DISPARITY FACED BY IMMIGRANTS IS BEING CHARACTERIZED AS “THE STICKY FLOOR” EFFECT. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION CONCEPT OF THE *GLASS CEILING* AND THE *STICKY FLOOR*?**

Reflecting the course, the major papers will center on the social scientific concepts of culture, social power and ideology as the primary focus in the analysis of social change process. Two major dimensions that I will evaluate your writing on are how well you substantiate your statements and arguments and how rigorous and creative you are in dealing with the material and the topic. Here are some suggestions which may be useful.

1. Substantiating your ideas:

- (a) Logical argument (This is so because ...).
- (b) Empirical evidence (This is an experience or something that can be seen to occur in society. You can base this on your own experience or descriptions from empirical studies that you find in academic literature, or other relevant reading material).
- (c) Outside sources (references, paraphrases and quotes from writers in the field that lend support for what you are saying).
- (d) Rules for Internet Use: Only online journals and no NGO sites and publications (unless pre-authorized by the Instructor)

2. Achieving analytic depth and creativity:

- (a) Analogy (This is like ... e.g., comparing the organization of society to the organization of a human body. Your articulation of comparable characteristics adds a new and revealing way of seeing elements [meanings, practices, and procedure] that make up the situation or phenomenon that your analysing).

- (b) Generating your own concepts (Thinking of new labels for or a different way to express or explain a conventionally understood situation, action or process, that brings out dimensions that make it up but which may not be obvious or emphasized in our conventional understandings.

A GOOD ESSAY NEEDS TO HAVE A CLEAR, WELL FOCUSED THESIS, REVIEWS RELEVANT LITERATURE, AND IS ANALYTICAL (NOT SIMPLY DESCRIBING EVENT, BUT EXPLAINING WHY THEY HAPPEN). YOU SHOULD SUPPLY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR POSITION BY UTILIZING AVAILABLE PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SOURCES.

YOUR ESSAY WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON YOUR ESSAY'S: **ACADEMIC CONTENT, CLARITY, ORGANIZATION OF IDEAS, PROPER USE OF SOURCES, PROPER QUOTATIONS AND CITATIONS.** PLEASE REFER TO YORK'S CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC WRITING <<http://www.arts.yorku.ca/caw>> AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY ESSAY WRITING GUIDELINES FOR OTHER WRITING RESOURCES.

- (1) ESSAY SHOULD BE TYPED AND DOUBLE-SPACED.
- (2) ESSAY SHOULD BE TYPED IN THE "MLA"FORMAT (REFER TO FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS FILE IN THE "ASSIGNMENT " SECTION OF FOSTER WEBSITE OR THE "FORMS" SECTION OF THE MPPAL WEBSITE).
- (3) ESSAY LENGTH: 8 TO 10 PAGES
- (4) ESSAY ON WHITE PAPER AND STAPLED IN THE UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER. (NO BINDERS PLEASE).
- (5) MAKE SURE TO HAVE A SECOND PRINT OF YOUR ESSAY (NOT ON THE DISKETTE) FOR YOUR OWN FILES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER.
- (6) TEN ACADEMIC RESEARCH LITERATURE SOURCES
- (7) ESSAY MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COVER PAGE CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING:
 - . STUDENT NAME AND CLASS
 - . ESSAY TITLE
 - . DUE DATE
 - . NAME OF PROFESSOR
 - . NAME OF COURSE

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: PLAGIARISM REFERS TO USE OF IDEAS, WORDS, SENTENCES, DATA, ARGUMENTS, CALCULATIONS OR OTHER WORK DONE BY SOMEBODY ELSE WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGMENT. PLAGIARISM IS CONSIDERED AS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS ACADEMIC OFFENSE AND CARRIES PENALTIES. YOU SHOULD PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PROPER CITATION AND QUOTATION RULES IN YOUR ESSAY. YORK UNIVERSITY USES SOFTWARE THAT CAN CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM. STUDENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR WRITTEN WORK IN ELECTRONIC FORM AND HAVE IT CHECKED FOR PLAGIARISM.

****NOTE ON EMAILING PAPERS:** NO EMAILING PAPERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES