

MAJOR ESSAY TOPICS

**AP/HREQ 3890 6.00A SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDIES:
THEORY, ANALYSIS, PRACTICE
DUE DATE: MARCH 12, 2020**

IMMIGRATION: 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*? EXPLAIN AND ANALYSE.

MULTICULTUALISM: CANADA'S POLICY OF MULTICULTURALISM HAS BEEN CALLED A "MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY" BY ITS BOOSTERS, AND IT HAS BEEN CALLED "MOSAIC MADNESS" BY ITS CRITICS. COMPARE AND CONTRAST THESE VIEW POINTS IN REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF A COMPLEX URBAN SOCIETY?

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE: IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF LONG-STANDING LAND CLAIMS ARE THE TWO DIMENSIONS OF "NATIVE ACTIVISM" AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN CANADA IN THE MODERN CONTEXT? EXPLAIN AND ANALYSE.

GENDER JUSTICE: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT SINCE THE 1960S HAS PRESENTED CHALLENGES TO THE CANADIAN STATE TO REORGANIZE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONS IN CANADA. DISCUSS THE KEY STRATEGIES USED AND MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE MOVE TOWARD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

MEDIA AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: EXAMINE THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISSEMINATION AND CIRCULATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES WITHIN MAINSTREAM PUBLIC DISCOURSE, IN REGARD TO THE ROLES BEING PLAYED BY A BROAD RANGE OF MEDIA AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FORMATION SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC STEREOTYPES: HOW ARE RACE/ETHNICITY AND POWER PORTRAYED IN THE MOVIE "CRASH"? GIVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES AND EXPLAIN HOW THESE CONCEPTS HELPED/IMPAIRED SOME OF THE CHARACTERS IN FORMING THEIR OWN IDENTITY. ANALYZE WHETHER AND/OR HOW CERTAIN KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS (POWER RELATIONSHIPS) AFFECT THE FINAL IDENTITY THAT THE CHARACTERS CREATE FOR THEMSELVES.

WORKPLACE DIVERSITY: ONE OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ECONOMIC PRESUMPTIONS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION IS THAT THERE IS A 'BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY'. HOWEVER, MANY RESEARCHERS [SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, "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.

RAP LYRICS ON TRIAL: RAP LYRICS AND VIDEOS ARE TURNING UP AS EVIDENCE IN COURTROOMS WITH SOME ALARMING REGULARITY. LAST YEAR IN THE USA, THERE WERE 18 KNOWN CASES IN WHICH VARIOUS COURTS CONSIDERED THE ADMISSIBILITY OF RAP AS EVIDENCE, THE LYRICS WERE ALLOWED NEARLY 80 PERCENT OF THE TIME. HOW DO THE COURTS COME TO VIEW THE SUBGENRE CONVENTIONS OF "GANSTA LYRICS" AS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL CONFESSION, RATHER THAN AS A FORM OF FICTIONAL OR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION?

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Reflecting the course, the major papers will center on the sociological 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 you're analyzing).

(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 EQUITY STUDIES ESSAY WRITING GUIDELINES FOR OTHER WRITING RESOURCES.

- (1) ESSAY SHOULD BE TYPED AND DOUBLE-SPACED.
- (2) ESSAY SHOULD BE TYPED IN THE "APA" FORMAT (PLEASE REFER TO FILE "MAJOR ESSAY FORMATTING REQUIRMENTS").
- (3) ESSAY LENGTH: 8 TO 10 PAGES
- (4) TEN ACADEMIC SOURCES (MINIMUM)
- (5) ESSAY ON WHITE PAPER AND STAPLED IN THE UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER. (NO BINDERS PLEASE).
- (6) MAKE SURE TO HAVE A SECOND PRINT OF YOUR ESSAY (NOT ON THE DISKETTE) FOR YOUR OWN FILES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER.
- (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