

## GWSS MIDTERM ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

DUE Tuesday, 11/7 at the beginning of class  
NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED

### Formatting Requirements:

- Length: 3-5 pages
- Font: 12-point standard font
- Spacing: Double
- Must include Name on each page (use header or footer)
- Include page #s on each page
- Staple your papers (no bend, tears, paperclips...)
- Works Cited page with formatted citations (MLA or APA style)
- block quotations should be single spaced only (do not fill up pages w/block quotes)

No matter your choice of question, your essay will be graded on clarity of ideas: Did you present a strong and clear thesis? Did you provide clear examples that support your argument? Did you demonstrate understanding of key concepts presented in lecture and in the readings? Is the paper properly formatted (grammar, spelling, etc.)? Does the paper fulfill the requirements (length, 12pt font, double space, stapled, etc.)?

Papers are worth 20 points total. “A” work (17+ pts) will satisfy all of the above in all areas. Papers receiving 14 - 17 points (“B” work) will show strong engagement but some lack (that will be noted in the comments) in content, form, structure. Work receiving 13 points or less (“C” work) show basic understanding but reflect major problems in content, structure, argument, format, etc. like lacking a thesis, or a body of the text that does not argue for the thesis stated in the introductory paragraph. Work receiving anything that falls below the above stated requirements, shows lack in all the above content/format requirements.

### Content Requirements:

Each essay must include a minimum of **three key terms** and cite a minimum of **two scholarly readings** (at least one from our coursepack, one can be found through library book (see the webct homepage for suggested texts) or journal search – <http://www.lib.umn.edu>).

Some key concepts/terms discussed in class and readings: gender, race, class, intersectionality, intersectional analysis, differences (in race, class, gender), power, privilege, colonialism, imperialism, essentialism, patriarchy, oppression, agency, marginalization, hegemony, performativity, power, sex/gender distinction, biological v. social construction, masculinity/femininity, othering, capitalism, supremacy...

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**Demonstrate your understanding of the key terms/theoretical concepts deployed in the readings that we have done thus far this term by answering one of the following essay questions:**

1. What is feminist media? How do the authors/scholars/filmmakers we've read define it? Please cite specific examples from the course readings. How do you want to add, change or build upon what's been defined? In addition, analyze a piece of media (film, video, vlog) that we've viewed in class or on our course blog as an example that supports your claims about feminist media-making, or shows the potential for feminist interventions in film/media-making.
2. Write an in-depth analysis of a film viewed in class (Jane Campion's *The Piano*, Grace Lee's *Barrier Device*, Julia Query's *Live Nude Girls Unite*, or F. Gary Gray's *Set It Off*).

Choose one of the following areas to focus on:

1. A feminist intersectional analysis of the film that includes in-depth considerations of constructions of (or representations of) race/class/gender/sexuality+
2. An analysis of the character construction / representation of race and/or gender
3. Discussion of the construction of the gaze(s) deployed in the film
4. Analysis of the filmic constructions (lighting, sound, art direction, etc) and their significance in your "reading" of the film's meaning/theme
5. Discussion of film authorship (filmmaker location/positionality), artistic integrity, artist accountability, ethics, responsibility, filmmaker/subject relationship
6. Discussion of spectatorship (think about possible audience reception) in terms of subjectivity (identity positioning and relation to the film's content/form) and your "reading" of the film

Note: Avoid extensive plot summary (we've seen the films!) but rather, specify significant plot points to demonstrate a point. Focus more on your argument and supporting your claims with theory and key elements of filmic construction.