

❖ Sample Assignment #1

Women's Studies 223

Lecturer: Jody Cardinal

Fall 2001

Paper 1: WHAT IS YOUR "MESTIZA CONSCIOUSNESS"?

Full Draft Due: Monday, October 1

Final Version Due: Monday, October 15

(Except in emergencies, no late papers will be accepted on either date.)

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is

- to analyze how well the ideas and theories discussed in class apply to your personal experiences of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and other identity categories
- to think more deeply and in more detail about specific course readings
- to develop skills for writing well-organized and effective academic essays

Format for both versions: 3 typed, double-spaced pages

- **Full Draft:** The full draft submitted on 10/1 must be a high-quality draft, 3 pages minimum. It is not an outline or a very rough draft. It should represent your best effort at the assignment and be comparable to what you would turn in for grading. I will review all drafts and then give them to your Writing Fellow who will make comments and schedule a conference to discuss your paper with you.
- **Final version:** Remember to submit both your first version with your Writing Fellow's comments and your final version on 10/15. An evaluation of your revision process will be included in the grade.

Assignment: Choose one of the following topics:

1. Mestiza consciousness paper: Answer all of the following questions:

- How does Gloria Anzaldúa define "mestiza consciousness"?
- Choose one of the characters or authors from the list on the back of this sheet. Using specific examples from the readings, analyze how and to what extent your chosen character or author has a "mestiza consciousness."
- Using specific examples from your personal experience, analyze how and to what extent you have a "mestiza consciousness."

2. Develop a metaphor for identity: Gloria Anzaldúa and Sonja Curry-Johnson develop metaphors to explain how multiple and conflicting aspects of identity can be joined to form a functional whole. Anzaldúa uses the metaphor of the borderlands, while Curry-Johnson uses the metaphor of a tapestry. For this topic, do all of the following:

- Explain your own original metaphor for the way in which conflicting aspects of the self can be linked together to form a functional identity.
- Choose one of the characters or authors from the list on the back of this sheet. Using specific examples from the readings, analyze how and to what extent your chosen character or author has the type of identity described by your metaphor.
- Using specific examples from your personal experience, analyze how and to what extent you have developed the type of identity described by your metaphor.