

Signature Assignment for BA/ICS/2 [=AA/ICS/2/]

Course: 350 Race, Class, Gender
Instructor: Mathew Kanjirathinkal
Assignment Title: Social determinants of personal identity
Assignment ID (To be assigned)

Outcome to be assessed: BA/ICS/2 [= AA/ICS/2]
Explain the relationship among differing cultural perspectives and the social determinants of personal identity, including race, class, gender, ethnicity, and nationality.

Assignment Description: Enduring systems of social determinants of personal identity such as racism, classism, sexism, and immigration status are often used to construct systems of privilege and to discriminate against and exploit individuals and groups who are in positions of disadvantage. Struggle for equal treatment of all persons begins by recognizing, acknowledging, and analyzing the structural and cultural forces that underpin these determinants and manifest themselves in everyday social interactions.

Because of their unique potential to portray systems of privilege in concrete ways in everyday social interactions, feature films and documentaries can be effective tools to raise awareness of such systems. Therefore, for this assignment, students will watch a selected feature film or documentary that thematizes issues of racism, classism, sexism, immigration status, etc., and write an interpretative essay, identifying and analyzing the underlying social and cultural elements that define the social identities of the characters portrayed in the film. The essay must address each of the evaluation criteria specified below. The quality of the paper is evaluated by measuring how well the essay meets these criteria, as described in the rubric used to assess this program-level learning outcome.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Ability to explain the socio-historical context of the events portrayed in the movie
2. Ability to identify and articulate systems of privilege (such as racism, sexism, classism, immigration status, etc.) and discrimination that are at work in the construction of individual identities
3. Ability to differentiate and analyze the impact of social and cultural practices and structures on everyday social interactions
4. Ability to articulate and analyze the assumptions that underlie the social and cultural practices

To be effective, students should draw on the knowledge and skills they are gaining from this course and related courses. The paper should be 6-8 pages in length, double-spaced, and typed in 12-point font. Students are encouraged to consult reviews of the film/documentary and use them as sources to support their analysis.

Formatting: Use Chicago Manual of Style.

Possible films to choose from (tentative list)

1. *The Blind Side*
2. *Amreeka*
3. *LA 92*
4. *The Force*
5. *Free CeCe*
6. *Strong Island*
7. *Crown heights*
8. *American Made*
9. *I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore*
10. *The Butler*
11. *Moonlight*
12. *Wind River*
13. *Songs my Brother Taught Me*
14. *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*
15. *Reel Bad Arabs*
16. *Little White Lie*
17. *Yelling to the Sky*
18. *Long Walk to Freedom*
19. *Cesar Chavez*

[Suggestions welcome!]