

CES 101.5 - Intro. to Comparative Ethnic Studies - Final Paper Assignment Sheet

(This table explains how each component of the assignment will be graded. Please read carefully as you prepare your assignment)

As you have been introduced to the academic field of Ethnic Studies, and the interdisciplinary questions it poses about the way that race, ethnicity and racism structure our world across a range of time and places. Your final paper is to demonstrate your understanding of a precise topic and theme which illustrates your contribution to the larger group project. As a group you selected a certain theme, such as Race and advertisement or gender and music; now you must directly focus upon a certain segment of of race/gender/class/media. You are to produce an understanding of how articulations of power plays a key role in the formation of difference and inequality; as well as modes of resistance and alternatives to such realities. Make sure to conclude your paper with an analysis of how your contribution strengthened your specific group project.

Final Paper (Due the day of your scheduled presentations)

For this assignment, you'll produce a 6-8 page paper about a topic of your choice that further develops a single aspect of your group's project theme. Here's what I'll be looking for when I grade.

Structure:

- Introductory paragraph that avoids the “generality trap” we discussed in class. A good technique for an intro paragraph for this kind of a paper is to tell the reader about a little piece of textual evidence you found that's particularly interesting and that represents your argument well.
- Thesis paragraph that tells me up front what your argument is going to be, and that then provides a “roadmap” to the rest of the paper (“first, I will discuss x theme, then move into y theme, then finish by looking at z theme”). OWL has a good handout about crafting a thesis statement [here](#). Remember you need to run a thesis statement by me for approval before Oct. 11, feel free to email it to me earlier if you need guidance.
- In order to make your argument you will apply arguments from secondary/scholarly sources in order to prove your points about your textual evidence. You will need to have a minimum of 3 (non-class materials) academic references.

Substance

- Choice of topic: I'll be looking to see that your topic is the right size for this paper. We're going to talk about [constraints](#) in class today; the choice of topic and imposition of proper constraints can do much to help you create a paper that is specific enough to fit within eight pages and allow for close reading and analysis.
- Analysis vs. opinion: I want you to look at your primary sources in terms of a class theme, to identify and draw out patterns within those sources, and to argue for their significance in historical and cultural terms

Mechanics

- Well-formed and complete footnotes in [Chicago Style](#)

- Well-embedded quotations that are unpacked and analyzed, and that do not stand alone.
- Spelling, grammar—you know the drill. Tip: If I find spelling errors that could have been caught by Spellcheck, that makes me think you didn't care enough to clean your work up before submitting. This is not the mindset you want to provoke in somebody who's evaluating your work! And that's A Lesson for Life.

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You will be graded in the following categories:

- Direction Followed: conforms to instructions and Chicago Style
- Topic or theme: relevance to course material and to group project
- Communicative Value: development of professional, cogent and engaging papers
- Innovativeness: organizational development reflected key concepts taught in class and utilized outside materials
- Effectiveness: demonstration of levels of awareness and develops conceptual clarity regarding marginalized populations & media