

**SP. 401 – Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
Essay Assignment #3; Final Reflection**

Due: One day after Ses #25 over email to the professor (as a Word, PDF or RTF file).

Length:

- **Essay:** 5-7 pages, typed, double-spaced (Times, New Roman, 12pt.)
- **Final Reflection:** ½-1 page, typed, double-spaced.

Essay

Choose topic (a) or (b) below and write a **5-7 page essay** in response to it. You will need to draw examples from the texts we have read to support your points; use parenthetical citations to document the sources you use. Be sure that you are introducing your quotes adequately, creating smooth transitions between your own writing and that of your sources.

Note: This essay does not have a draft/revision process.

Assume, for the purposes of this assignment, that you are designing a gender studies museum exhibit primarily for adults entitled either (a) “The Politics of Beauty and the Body” or (b) “Gender and Work.” Choose either (a) or (b) and write an informative pamphlet (4-5 pgs.) that will introduce viewers to the gender issues presented in the exhibit, drawing explicitly upon at least **six** readings. (The pamphlet should be written as an essay oriented to a popular readership with a **thesis or “mapping” statement** that describes the approach of the exhibit.) Following the essay, list at least ten different items you will display (in order) with a brief interpretive caption or short paragraph for each (1 ½- 2 pgs). (Display items can range from beauty artifacts, advertisements, clothing, statistical charts, clips from films, newspaper articles, etc.)

If you select option (a), you might include issues such as transgender/transsexualism, intersex, beauty and body ideals for women and men, dieting and eating disorders, and cosmetic surgery. Option (b) could address topics such as gender and the wage, sex segregation in the labor force, pros and cons of affirmative action, parental and family leave policies, division of labor in the household, gender socialization, and the “glass ceiling.” (Whether you choose (a) or (b), don’t feel that you must include all these issues!)

Final Reflection

In what ways has *Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies* influenced your thinking about the role of gender in society and in your own life? (1/2 to 1 page)