

Engaging Assignment, Fall 2008

GLBT 1001: Introduction to GLBT Studies

Engaging Assignments (200 points)

Throughout the semester, you must complete 5 brief assignments that are designed to allow you to engage with the material beyond your own reading or our discussion of it. Each assignment is worth 40 points and is due on the day it is listed in the course schedule (unless otherwise specified). Be prepared to discuss your thoughts on the assignment on the day it is due.

ENGAGING ASSIGNMENT #1:

How are transgender people represented in the media? On television? In newspapers? On the internet? a. Find an image/example/news item concerning a transgender issue/community/person. Post it on the blog (or bring it in to class) along with some brief thoughts about the image. Is it positive? Negative? How does it shape your and/or dominant society's understanding of transgender people?

OR

b. Pay careful attention to the number of jokes about/humorous references to transgendered people that you see/hear/read this week. In a blog entry (or a typed response to be handed in), reflect on your findings. Were you surprised at how many/how few jokes there were? What was the purpose of these jokes? Is it okay to make fun of transgendered people?

ENGAGING ASSIGNMENT #2:

Complete Bornstein's gender exam (46-62) and pick one of hir gender exercises in the "Who's on Top" chapter in My GenderWorkbook. Reflect on the process of doing the exam/exercise. Then, type up a brief response to the following questions: What is gender (according to Bornstein? According to dominant society? According to you?)

ENGAGING ASSIGNMENT #3:

What do you think are some of the most important rights that all humans should be afforded? Make a list of these rights and then discuss some examples of how GLBT/Q people/communities are denied these rights.

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ENGAGING ASSIGNMENT #4:

What types of spaces aren't safe? How do some spaces strip certain individuals of their dignity, treating them like they were less than human? When do these spaces become dangerous/locations of violence? For one (or two) days, keep a log of all of the spaces that you inhabit during your daily routine. Then, classify those spaces as safe or unsafe. Finally, critically reflect on your results. Safe spaces for whom? Why might safe space be important? Were you surprised at the number of spaces that were unsafe, especially for GLBT peoples?

ENGAGING ASSIGNMENT #5:

When do you pass? When do you refuse to pass/be assimilated? What are some reasons it might be important to effectively pass? To resist assimilation? Write about a time when you passed and a time when you "outed" yourself?