FINAL REFLECTION ESSAY
What is Women's Studies?
What difference does it make to your perspective on the world?

This final assignment affords you the opportunity to reflect on how the knowledge you have acquired this semester has shaped your thinking about gender and about women's lives across a range of cultures throughout the world. The essay will constitute a synthesis of your reflections upon the readings, presentations, and videos for the course. The essays will use specific evidence drawn from all these course materials.

FORMAT: Minimum 5 FULL pages (should reach the bottom of page 5), double-spaced and typed in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, with 1” margins. Please do not add extra spacing between paragraphs, in headers, etc. You must quote directly from a minimum of 10 of the texts we’ve read this semester. You may include other course materials besides the readings in your essay, if you do, please refer to videos and presentations by title. You must document all your sources properly, incorporate every quote into one of your own sentences, and use a works cited page listing all the sources you cited, arranging them in alphabetical order according to the authors’ last names.

ESSAY TOPIC: Discuss how Women’s Studies has shaped your knowledge of, and perspective on, women’s lives around the world. Your essay MUST address ALL FOUR of the questions stated below. You must incorporate several of the essays AND other course materials to flesh out your essay. You must include your personal reflection on the issues.

1. Discuss how the perspective you developed in Women’s Studies has shaped the way you analyze issues that affect women’s lives globally.

2. Discuss TWO contemporary issues addressed by Women’s Studies that affect the lives of women both in the U. S. and in the international community. For EACH issue, use TWO examples, one from the U. S. and one from another country. Discuss how each issue affects the lives of women in this country and one other country in similar and dissimilar ways. For each example, you must provide specific evidence drawn from the course materials.

3. Discuss how Women’s Studies has helped you make connections between your own cultural experiences and those of women whose cultural experiences differ from yours based on race, ethnicity, class, region, nation, age, sexual orientation or physical ability. Discuss TWO examples, one drawn from your own culture and one from another about which we have learned, to explain how cultural differences affects one’s beliefs, actions, and values. For each example, you must provide specific evidence drawn from the course materials.

4. Discuss how Women’s Studies has affected your sense of ethics, values, and social responsibility in the context of local, national, or global issues.
Your essay should look like this:

Your Name
Dr. Michele Ren
WMST 101
8 May 2013

Title: Centered, in Bold

The first paragraph is your introduction; it should have an Attention grabbing opener, a summary/overview of the issue, and a clear and compelling thesis statement.

Your next three (you may have more, but not less) paragraphs are body paragraphs. They should include transitions from previous/to next paragraphs, a topic sentence with a single focus, and secondary support. (Note: Do not put extra spaces between paragraphs, all spacing in the body of the essay should be the same – go to format, paragraph and make sure Spacing Before and After is set to 0).

The last paragraph is your conclusion; it should remind the reader of the thesis/why you’ve written this thing in the first place, returning to something from the introduction is a good way to bring the piece full circle.