

English 4316
Dr. Gunn
Spring 2021

Critical Reflection Discussion Group Assignments

Group "A"	Group "B"
Sofia Azurmendi	Ana-Flor Bernal
Ana Berry	Yadira De La Rosa
Stephanie Duran	Sarah Esparza
Miguel Garcia	Kris Magdaleno
Alain Martinez	Luis Menendez
Julissa Mitchell	Romeo Morgan-Baldi
Carla Rodriguez	Alejandro Samaniego
Mary Sanchez	Elizabeth Sosa
Barbara Walker	Vanessa Zuniga

Weekly Critical Reflections and Responses (25%, graded cumulatively): During the first week of the semester, the class will be divided into two groups: Critical Reflection Group "A" and Critical Reflection Group "B." By noon Friday on alternating weeks, it will be the job of the individuals in each group to post a short, one-page critical reflection (roughly 250-300 words) on ONE of the readings we have completed and discussed in that week's class sessions. You can do this either *before* we discuss that reading in class (this is a great way to prep for class), or *after* (this works great to ponder further on something that's been discussed that week, or to bring up something from the readings that didn't make it into our class discussion). Before or after, it's up to you—just make sure you have your reflection by noon Friday of that week at the latest. It will then be the job of individuals in the alternating group to read these critical reflections and post a thoughtful reply to one of them by 11:59 p.m. on the Monday of the week following. This will begin in the second week of the course. So, for example, if you are in Critical Reflection Group "A," you will write your first one-page critical reflection on one of the readings from January 26th or 28th, and post your entry by noon on Friday, January 29th. If you are in Critical Reflection Group "B," your job will be to read through these entries sometime over the course of the next three days, and post a thoughtful response to at least one of them by Monday, February 1st, at 11:59 p.m. For the week of Feb 2-4, the roles will be reversed, and so on.

In your **Critical Reflections**, you needn't discuss every text assigned (some days have several), nor do you need to discuss your chosen text comprehensively. Instead, your job is to find some aspect of a text you find interesting and important, show us why you find it to be so, and offer it up for discussion, interpretation, and analysis. Use the Critical Reflections to articulate the questions and ideas you develop in the course of your reading, and to reflect on the developing themes of the class—always taking care to respond specifically to relevant passages from the text. Although somewhat informal, these entries are expected to consist of deliberative, thoughtful paragraphs that are free of grammatical error. In these reading journal entries, you must:

- **Introduce** and **contextualize** the topic under review, briefly. A sentence or two is fine. What have you observed that begs closer scrutiny? How might exploring it promise to open up a deeper understanding of the text in question?

- **Incorporate** a minimum of one quotation in your discussion. Quoted passages are the centerpieces of academic argument, the evidence we use to develop our interpretations and analysis. If you find it helpful to do so by way of comparison, you are welcome to include quotations from, or references to, other texts from the syllabus we've explored already. But these should be offered in the service of your interpretation of the principal text under review.
- **Offer some provisional reflections** about the meaning and significance of the particular passages you've chosen to discuss. How, and why, is the passage (or passages) you've chosen important? What can a reader gain by seeing the text as you see it?

In turn, good **Responses** will strive to add further insight and elaboration to the original points made; one should not seek out arguments to rebut, but rather claims to develop, amplify, and extend. Granted, some differences of opinion are inevitable--but responders should always maintain a tone of civility and respect for the writers and opinions to whom and to which they are responding. Try to respond to someone different each week if you can.