

ENG 339 WI
Professor Baiada
Spring 2017
Essay #1

Purpose: Your essay should analyze the literature in order to persuade the audience of your interpretation of its messages/effect in regard to the topics below. You want to bring about a change in your reader's understanding of the text or open up a new way of understanding the text.

Audience: Consider that your audience is a larger readership of these two books, students who took this class two semesters ago with another professor but read the same books. They are familiar with the books but may not be able to remember everything clearly, so will need clear contextualization for quotations and specific detailed examples. Your intro, too, must set up the books with a bit of specificity (authors' names, titles, genres, that kind of stuff). This audience is also educated so expects the writing to be generally correct and formal but not super formal with lots of fancy words no one knows; they will want citations so they can find your quotations in their copies of the books if they want to review; and they have studied literature so will be looking for some sense of the texts as literature, e.g. attention to literary devices (symbols, metaphors, imagery, etc.) or style (narration, diction, etc.).

Due Dates:

Prewriting email: Saturday March 4th at midnight

Drafts: must be submitted to Turnitin Assignment: Draft Essay #1 by **11:59pm Saturday, March 11th^t**

(10 points/full letter grade of final revision grade)

Email Response to Feedback & Revision Exercise: via email to me by **Wednesday, 22nd, midnight**

Revision to be graded: submitted to Turnitin Assignment: Revision Essay #1 by **midnight Saturday, March 25th**

****Late papers will not be accepted.

Format: Please refer to manuscript guidelines available in this folder and under Course Information.

Requirements: A thesis-driven, well organized and supported literary analysis in response to one of the topics below. Support your ideas with specific passages from the text. THIS IS YOUR EVIDENCE THAT YOU MUST INTERPRET IN ORDER TO MAKE THE POINT YOU INTEND IT TO MAKE! Use a **minimum of two (2) quotations**; cite page numbers following MLA guidelines. The length requirement is **four pages**. (You must have at least one paragraph of text on the fourth page.)

Evaluation: See Literary Essay Rubric. The essay will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Topics: Select ONE of the following:

1. While watching the Bhangra Blow-Up in *Corona*, Razia marvels, "It's so funny how these kids can rebel but still be part of the desi community. I don't understand" (Rehman 106). This is a feat that both Razia in Rehman's novel and Maxine Hong Kingston in her memoir aspire to and struggle with. In your essay, examine Razia's and Maxine's conflicting needs

to both rebel and remain part of their communities. To what degree do you think each is successful?

2. In *Woman Warrior*, Maxine grapples with figuring out who she is and how to assert her voice/self as this individual; Razia in *Corona* feels more that “I could only be the person I had been born to become” (112). Contrast these two literary approaches to selfhood. Does Razia’s more sure sense of who she is offer a less difficult path to self realization? Why or why not?
3. *Woman Warrior* is a foundational text of Asian American literature representing the experiences and concerns of Asian American women ,and in doing so, she influenced many who followed her, especially other Asian American women writers. She is considered a kind of foremother of Asian American literature. The lasting influence of *Woman Warrior* must also be considered alongside the evolution of Asian American writers to explore other and different facets and experiences of Asian America. Consider Rehman. How does her *Corona* **demonstrate both continuity** with the concerns, conflicts and/or style of Kingston’s *Woman Warrior* **and change/evolution**, either shifts or new directions from Kingston’s work?
4. Develop your own topic. If you choose this option, you must email me a proposed question your essay will attempt to answer or proposed thesis statement at least THREE DAYS BEFORE DRAFT IS DUE. I would like you to address both books so your question should take this into consideration. You might choose to focus on themes, character, conflict, structure, genre (i.e. how each revises the genre she is writing in), imagery, symbolism, or narrative perspective.