General Education Assessment Plan

G.12: Cultural and Social Understanding Sample Assignment
Sample 1

Portfolio

Over the course of the semester, you will explore six different central topics, aimed at enhancing social and cultural understanding. You will write an original Paper on each of the six different central topics, in most cases with research. To help you explore these topics, I have identified relevant course materials and developed questions. By the end of the semester, you will have a Portfolio (a collection of six papers) that explores the course content and social and cultural understanding.

Each Portfolio Paper must be a minimum of 2 pages, typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins all around. You must include references from a minimum of two course readings per paper for Parts II - VI. Works Cited page is required. Use MLA format: class material must be clearly identified and all references to outside print, broadcast, or online material must be appropriately cited both within the text and in works cited page. Note: Wikipedia is not an appropriate source for your papers.

Portfolio Tips:

Getting Started: Read the Portfolio Assignment Description before reading relevant course materials. Take notes as you are reading. Review assignment description, after you complete your reading. Establish your paper's original title. Develop a central thesis or main point for each paper. To explain your thesis or main idea, answer the questions provided in the assignment descriptions. Use the relevant course materials listed to support the explanation of your thesis and consider using additional support, such as personal experience and additional research, to help you explain your thesis. A paper has the following parts: an original title, introduction, thesis, body with course material, conclusion, and Works Cited page.

There are several ways to approach the portfolio papers in addition to course material, including:
1. Using the word “I” is appropriate, i.e. using personal experiences that relate to class material.
2. Magazine, newspaper, or other media stories that relate to class material.
3. Material from other classes that relate to our class material.
4. Comparison/contrast of topics, articles, or other class material.

Example Structure or Outline of Portfolio:

1) Original Title: 
2) Introduction (brief):
   a) Engage reader
   b) Inform reader of topic/key definitions
   c) Thesis or main point
3) Body:
   a) Explanation of thesis or main point
   b) Course Material #1
   c) Course Material #2
4) Conclusion:
   a) Summary of paper
   b) Restatement of thesis
   c) Lasting thoughts for reader
5) Works Cited:
   a) Course Material #1
   b) Course Material #2
Part II: Social Institutions Paper

Central Topic: The role of government, a social institution, on individuals, communities, and women

Objective: To assess the impact that social institutions have on individuals and culture—past, present, and future.

Relevant Course Materials: History and Patriarchy and Feminism **note: must include at least two references

Answer these questions:
- How has the government shaped your life in the past and present? Your community?
- How has the government shaped the lives of women—past and present?
- What role do you think the government will play in the future for the lives of women? You? Your community?

Thanks to Laura Soulsby for allowing use of this sample.