

Take-home mid-term exam (worth 20% of your final grade)

3-5 pages (900 words minimum) **PLEASE NUMBER YOUR PAGES!!!!**

Due Thursday, March 24 [lateness penalty: .3 if by March 27 {electronically only}; .5 if by March 29; .7 if by March 31; 1.0 if by April 7; 1.5 if any time after that]

Write an essay on one of the following topics, covering *every* part of the topic:

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH QUESTION YOU HAVE ANSWERED ON THE COVER OR FIRST PAGE OF YOUR PAPER!!!!

1. **ALCOFF AND DU BOIS:** Both Linda Martín Alcoff (“Mestizo Identity”) and W.E.B. DuBois discuss forms of consciousness that are in some way divided.

- (a) Explain Alcoff’s view of the kind of “mixed” identity she thinks that many Latin Americans and other people of mixed ancestry have. (i) Explain what she sees as the psychological and social character of these mixed identities. (ii) Explain how Alcoff is looking for a mixed identity that can be psychologically and socially healthy even though it is not internally unified. The answers to (i) and (ii) will have to make reference to some other people’s theories of mixed consciousness, that Alcoff draws on and discusses toward the end of her article.
- (b) You already wrote on DuBois’s idea of “double consciousness”. In this paper I want you to say what you think Alcoff would say about DuBois’s idea of double consciousness insofar as DuBois sees double consciousness as a problem for black Americans.

2. **WATERS AND GUGLIELMO, on white ethnicity:** Waters (“The Costs of a Costless Community”), and Guglielmo (“No color barrier’: Italians, Race, and Power in the United States”) both address two related issues:

- (a) the character of ethnicity for white ethnic groups in the U.S.: What is its meaning to the white people who claim or feel that they have an ethnicity? How does it affect the lives of members of those ethnic groups?
- (b) the relationship of white ethnicity to race in the United States.

Compare and contrast Waters and Guglielmo on their views about *both* (a) *and* (b). Keep in mind that Guglielmo is discussing Italian-Americans historically (from the 1890’s on into the first few decades of the 20th century), although he also makes some remarks about the present. Waters is talking about the present. You can compare the authors while still recognizing that they are dealing with distinct periods in U.S. history.

3. **TELLES on being of African ancestry in Brazil and the U.S.:** Edward Telles (“Rethinking Brazilian Race Relations”) discusses the status of persons of mixed ancestry (“brown”) and of “purer” African ancestry (“black”) in Brazilian society. (By “status” I just mean how well a given racially-defined group is doing in relation to other such groups.)

- (a) Explain Telles’s view about the status of those two groups. Explain the distinction between what he calls the “horizontal” and “vertical” dimensions. And explain how he thinks that distinction helps to explain a paradox or confusion in scholarship about Brazil, and indeed in Brazilians’ own thinking, about race relations in Brazil.
- (b) Telles compares race relations in Brazil to the United States. Discuss three points of comparison, bringing out how at least two of them can be seen as positive or negative from the vantage point of race relations or the status of people of African ancestry. That is, something could be better (for people of African ancestry, or for race relations in general) in Brazil than the United States, or better in the United States than Brazil. So discuss two points of comparison that Telles draws, along that dimension of “better or worse.” Keep in mind that something could be better in one respect but worse in another. So you do not have to come up with an “overall better” or “overall worse.”