

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

3-5 pages (900 words minimum) **PLEASE NUMBER YOUR PAGES, AND NOTE YOUR WORD COUNT AT THE END OF THE PAPER!!!!**

**Due Thursday, March 22** [lateness penalty: .3 if by March 27 {electronically only}; .5 if by March 30; .7 if by April 1; 1.0 if by April 3; 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. Du Bois 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 way of thinking about 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 Du Bois’s idea of “double consciousness”. In this paper I want you to say what you think Alcoff would say about Du Bois’s idea of double consciousness. I am looking for minimal overlap between that paper and this one, but recognize that you will have to draw on our earlier discussion of Du Bois that you wrote your paper about.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 that Telles brings up.
- (c) Of the 3 comparisons, pick two of them and discuss how they can be seen as positive or negative from the vantage point of race relations or the status of people of African ancestry. That is, discuss whether for a particular point of comparison, the way they do things in Brazil is positive or negative for race relations in general or for people of African ancestry compared to the way they do things in the United States. Keep in mind that something can be positive in one respect but negative in another, with respect to the same point of comparison. So you do not have to come up with an “overall better” or “overall worse.”

