

## EN270: Transnational Feminism 2011/12

### First Assessed Essay Topics

Essays due on the Monday of Week 3, Term 2

**Note:** Please consult the Department website and/or the Student Handbook for guidance on essay submission and citations. Your essays must be double-spaced, with page numbers clearly marked. They should be properly stapled or the pages pinned together. Please also read very carefully the Departmental regulations on Plagiarism.

Write a 2,500-word essay on any one of the following topics.

1. 'The job facing the cultural intellectual is... not to accept the politics of identity as given, but to show how all representations are constructed, for what purpose, by whom, and with what components' (Edward Said). How does transnational feminism writing (literary and theoretical) follow Said's call to action? Use at least one literary and one theoretical text you have studied this term in your answer.
2. Chandra Mohanty has stated that 'Sisterhood cannot be assumed on the basis of gender; it must be forged in concrete historical and political practice and analysis.' How does transnational feminism respond to Mohanty's statement? Use at least one theoretical and one literary text you have studied this term in your answer.
3. In 'Reading Subaltern History,' Priyamvada Gopal suggests that what distinguishes subaltern studies from other forms of Marxist theory is that it avoids "assimilative thinking" in its attempt to make the subaltern the subject of his own history.' Write an essay that discusses how two of the texts you studied this term challenge with dominant structures of power.
4. Write an essay that analyses the themes and motifs of history, cultural memory and gender in two texts you have studied this term.
5. Write an essay that discusses the relationship between environment and tradition with reference to two writers you have studied this term.
6. 'As a *mestiza* I have no country... As a lesbian I have no race' (Gloria Anzaldúa). Write an essay that examines sexuality in relation to nation and race with reference to two writers you have studied this term.
7. Write an essay that analyses topographies of displacement in two texts you have studied this term.
9. Assess the role of the woman poet/writer in the creation of a 'national' literary tradition. Discuss with reference to two writers you studied this term.
10. Write an essay on a topic of your choice decided after consultation with module tutor.