

McCabe

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### FIYS 181: Take-home final exam

**WHAT:** a 4-5 page essay in response to the question below, worth 25% of course grade

**WHEN:** As stated on the document "Deadlines and Outside Class Activities" posted on Moodle, **this exam is due in class on Tues., Nov. 23.** I am distributing this exam earlier to you than stated there.

**WHY:** This exam will allow you to synthesize the work on women and the arts that we have been doing this semester.

**HOW:** Write a 5-page essay with a thesis that responds to this question: **In three of the items below, what is the significance of the female body?** For example, what is the meaning, purpose, or impact of how some aspect of the female body is addressed, depicted, or used?

Choose three of the items below as indicated:

1. Choose either Judy Chicago's *The Dinner Party* **OR** Gwendolyn Brooks' poem "the mother"
2. Maria Irene Fornes' *Fefu and Her Friends*
3. Choose either an artwork from the Woman Made Gallery exhibits **OR** modern dance. If you choose modern dance, refer to the article "Patterns of Dominance: Men, Women, and Sexuality" and use Isadora Duncan as an example. Recall that there are images of and writings by Duncan on the Moodle site. ("Patterns of Dominance . . ." is by dance scholar Judith Lynne Hanna).

#### Guidelines:

1. Avoid an overly general thesis like "In these three examples, the artists emphasize the importance of women's bodies" or "These three artists talk about motherhood." (Never use "talks about," by the way, in formal writing). Some ways to narrow your topic: focus on a specific bodily experience, such as those connected to reproduction or sexual desire. Or focus on a theme like freedom and oppression with respect to female bodies. There are many other ways to narrow your thesis.
2. Use specific examples but minimize direct quotation. If you quote, choose only language that strongly demonstrates your main point. See pages 110-112 of *PSM* for ways to limit and shorten quotations.
3. Use signal phrases for quoted and paraphrased material (see *PSM* pages 112-115). Remember that the first time you refer to a person (such as an author or artist), use her first and last names, and thereafter use just her last name.

4. Discuss the items one at a time in the sequence that makes the most sense for your argument. Devote roughly the same amount of attention to each item.
5. Use strong topic sentences for your body paragraphs that sum up your point and that provide transitions between paragraphs.
6. The concluding paragraph of the essay should avoid lengthy recapitulation of your argument. The purpose of conclusions is to elaborate on the significance of your argument. So what? Who cares? What do you want your reader to think about as a result of reading your essay?
7. Do not use "I" or "you."
8. No in-text citations or Works Cited list necessary.
9. Use MLA style for manuscript format. Do not forget page numbers and TITLE. Please, please, please make your title interesting.
10. You are permitted but not required to use the Writing Center for this essay.