*Research on Social Justice Issue and Presentation*

 

*Goals*

* Apply skills of close reading and analysis to the texts in this course,
* Demonstrate how the literary texts in this course both shape and are shaped by their historical, cultural, and intertextual contexts,
* Conduct independent literary research, using appropriate resources and technologies,
* Create an effective oral presentation of literature / literary research.

*Basics*

* 15% of overall grade
* use material from one (or two) of the novels, conducting a short close reading for the class of two passages in terms of how they relate to the issue and/or attitudes associated with it
* draw from at least three different fields. Literature and literary theory, of course, but you can also choose to use ideas from psychology, sociology, biology, history, law, etc.
* present basic facts (statistics about) the issue
* illustrate various stakeholders, their points of view, their motivations and ideologies
* develop a cogent argument based on a conversation between different sources

*Parameters and Organization*

* 15 minutes
* Working from note cards, visual aids, and memory
* Introduce the topic
* Develop a close reading of a portion of a novel that highlights this issue.
* Discuss the history of this topic, tracing an intellectual genealogy of how people have approached it
* Discuss the contemporary stakeholders, providing an analysis of their opinions and motivations
* Discuss how one or more novels from our class can illuminate some aspect of this issue.

*Topics*

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

* Issues relating to intersectionality (women’s experiences of racism, homophobia, ableism, antisemitism, fatism, classism, xenophobia, ageism, etc.)
* Issues relating to healthcare and reproductive justice (birth control, maternity care, abortion, infant and/or maternal mortality, etc.)
* Issues relating to body policing and/or body dysmorphia (anorexia, bulimia, compulsive over-eating, media effects, etc.)
* Issues relating to romantic relationships (expectations regarding gender roles, the leisure gap, “lean in,” domestic violence, marriage law, etc.)