





\you're almost there . . .



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Problems in Gender Studies (P.I.G.S.)

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## TAKE-HOME QUIZ

1.) Please discuss any real-life problems you may have encountered (either by giving end) having to do with the concept of “the look” or “the male gaze” as per feminist criticism readings we’ve done thus far this semester.

Well, actually . . . on the first day of this class, I remember I was late to sit at one of those single chairs-with-desks on the sides of the room because the table in the middle were taken. So, I looked down and tried to negotiate my way between the desks and the backs of the chairs at the table – which wasn’t easy, because of the space between and I had my bookbag full of books flung over my shoulder, but I squeezed by! – I looked straight down Beths’ blouse. It was a warm day, I remember wearing a tank-top-like-thingee on, and, as I mentioned, I had to keep looking down so the class had already started and I neither wanted to make much noise or risk someone seeing my foot. So I got quite a view!

And, as I was looking down – and I swear! This wasn’t my fault! I had to squeeze by! – I looked straight down Beths’ blouse. It was a warm day, I remember wearing a tank-top-like-thingee on, and, as I mentioned, I had to keep looking down so the class had already started and I neither wanted to make much noise or risk someone seeing my foot. So I got quite a view!

But then, when I sat down, I felt terrible. I mean, I doubt this was the problem you had in mind when coming up with the class, right? I never felt so happy and sorry at the same time ever before in my life. I had a total boner all through the class when you were talking about bell hooks and her writings on capitalist imperialism. I couldn’t pay the slightest bit of attention – and I had to wait until I could let someone else distract myself with a mocha and a cigarette before I could switch to another topic. It was pretty good that night, though, if you want me to be completely honest with you. It’s fair to say that, in the interests of full disclosure, and all. I wouldn’t want to control my own desires or anything, right?)

2.) Talk about which, if any, of the assigned texts we’ve read so far this semester is most “problematic” in learning to adjust your thinking to accept, and why.

Probably that would have to be Simone de Beauvoir’s The Mandarins. The “problem” with the text itself, other than that it’s so vivid, I keep trying to

Uh . . . please don't tell Beth about what I said here, o.k.? I'd be really and wouldn't know what to say to her after that in class - or ever, probably.

B-

Christopher, you definitely seem to have your thoughts organized than you've shown in your two previous papers this semester, but - as I think you've aware - you still need to be particularly in terms of sticking to the subject and answering the question asked of you.

Also, I think it would be worthwhile if you paid me a visit next week during my office hours after class. I think you're doing well being able to take a certain amount of, shall we say, "frankness" when speaking to others back in Chicago but I fear you may be a bit out of touch in the Great Plains, people may be a bit surprised by your comments. It's not a big problem, but I'd hate to see you startle or offend someone needlessly if you honestly don't know you're doing it.

Although I will say, I do find your admiration for de Witt very heartening. It's always been one of my favorites, and I'm glad to see you younger taking to it, especially near the age that I first did. I think it's a good thing to be interested in the past and to be able to see the

