Short Assignment for
Sex and Gender
Women and Gender Studies 110

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Introduction for Faculty Colleagues

About the Course
This assignment was prepared for a course on sex & gender, an interdisciplinary course required for the Women & Gender Studies minor. The assignment is not a modification of an earlier assignment, but rather is an assignment created exclusively for this course – a course I have not taught before. This course will introduce students to scholarship about the social construction of sex, gender and sexual orientation from a variety of disciplines. Additionally, the course is also geared towards helping students learn to use evidence from different disciplines to solve social issues stemming from the social construction of sex, gender and sexual orientation.

How the Assignment Fits Into the Course
This assignment is the second assignment required for the course. The first assignment was much more introductory and invited students to describe the social construction of sex, gender and sexual orientation in a broader sense.

Important Features of this Assignment
At the end of the semester, students will write a formal proposal where they identify a problem, stemming from the social construction of sex, gender and/or sexual orientation – and offer a solution grounded in evidence and theory from multiple disciplines. To prepare for writing this final paper, this assignment gives them an opportunity to draw on a psychological perspective, and identify specific potential outcomes stemming from the social construction of sexual orientation.

Rubric
The grading criteria are clearly outlined on the assignment. Students can earn up to 16 points for content and 4 points for style and organization. Points are allocated based on criteria within the assignment description.
Focus & Connection to Course Goals
In June 2012, Dan Cathy the CEO of Chick-fil-A made statements indicating he was opposed to same-sex marriage because it violated the Bible’s definition of marriage and “the traditional family unit”. Following Cathy’s statements a number of college and universities, including Elon, initiated efforts to have Chick-fil-A removed from their campus. Ultimately, Chick-fil-A was not removed from Elon’s campus, but in response to these efforts, it was relocated from Moseley Center to McEwen Dining Hall.

In lecture, we discussed how institutional sources contribute to the social construction of sex, gender and sexual orientation. Likewise, we also discussed how we construct these identities can lead to a variety of consequences which can be explained through multiple disciplinarian lenses. To illustrate your understanding of these issues, write an expository-style essay to your Elon peers explaining how the presence of Chick-fil-A on Elon’s campus contributes to the social construction of sexual orientation. Critically, your explanation should draw on a psychological perspective, and identify specific potential outcomes stemming from the social construction of sexual orientation. This assignment will address the following course goals (from the syllabus):

- To describe and apply the social construction of gender, sex and sexual orientation
- To evaluate the consequences of the social construction of gender, sex and sexual orientation from the perspective of multiple disciplines
- To explain how the social construction of sex, gender and sexual orientation impacts all persons

How you will Demonstrate These Goals:
The objective of this assignment is to write an expository-style essay explaining to your Elon peers how institutions like Chick-fil-A 1) contribute to the social construction of sexual orientation and 2) what consequences stem from this construction using a psychological perspective. While your paper should briefly summarize how Chick-fil-A contributes to the social construction of sexual orientation, the majority of your paper should draw on psychological concepts and/or theory to identify and explain potential outcomes stemming from this construction.

Process
1. Begin your essay articulating exactly how and why Chick-fil-A’s presence on campus is relevant to the social construction of sexual orientation. If you would like to learn more about Dan Cathy’s statements, I encourage you to do a quick google search.
2. Identify, define and explain TWO course concepts that relate to the potential consequences of how sexual orientation is socially constructed. Remember, your two concepts should be specific to psychology.
3. Review the rubric on the next page to ensure your paper addresses the requirements of the assignment.
4. Your paper should be no longer than two, typed double-spaced pages in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins on all sides!!!
Paper is free of grammatical and spelling errors and uses language and tone appropriate to audience

Any other penalties? (i.e. following formatting guidelines? Name removed for blind grading? Late?)