

APPENDIX A

Assignment of Bios

ASSIGNMENT 1: Construct and post a reflective bio and respond to three other people's bios. (100 points). Due June 26th.

You will introduce yourself to the class through a reflective bio that you post on our WebCT homepage. Read the instructor's bio to see an example (and learn about your instructor). It is already posted in the discussion entitled "Bios." Then you will respond to three other people's bios as part of our interaction to build an online community.

Think about the values, beliefs, and norms of your own culture that you learned as a child. What did your family teach you to value, to work for, to want to be? What beliefs are evident when you think back to everyday life in the community in which you grew up? What behaviors in men, women or children were admired? Why? Then reflect upon how you have learned about other cultures. What experiences have you had with people different from yourself? Where have you experienced pre Jerryice or inequities? When did you feel "centered" within a group? When did you feel you didn't belong or were "different" from others?

Choose what you want to share with people in our class so that they will begin to understand who you are. **Reveal only what you feel comfortable in sharing.** Only people in our course community have access to our WebCt homepage and can read what you post. Our course homepage is a safe place to discuss issues, raise questions and discuss hard issues. For the sake of confidentiality and privacy, PLEASE do not allow others to use your access to read our discussions or other work. Everyone who has access to the course must post a bio and participate in our discussions. I don't allow "voyeurs."

Word-process your bio. First, type in your name, and then list 3-5 words you would use to identify who you are.

Under the heading 1. My Culture and Its Norms write a description of the cultural values and beliefs that you were taught as a child. Include descriptions of the norms in your home/community, such as those related to family responsibilities, parental expectations, gender roles, social class distinctions, taboos, accepted (or not acceptable) religious practices, preferred employment, and what you were taught about people whom your family and friends perceived as outsiders (people who, for whatever reason, were considered not like your people).

Then under the heading **2. My Educational and Work Background** describe your education, degrees/majors, languages spoken or read, your teaching experience, current job and relevant travel or work experience, especially as they relate to learning about the other cultures and global issues.

Next under the heading **3. My Learning about Other Cultures** describe how you have learned about cultures and countries around the world. What were you taught in school about Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East? What have you learned from first hand experience? How would you assess your strengths and weaknesses in knowledge about diverse world cultures and their histories, literature, etc.? To what degree have you learned about other cultures, other histories or literature from people in the culture/region under study? (That is, you learned about Nigeria from reading the work of Nigerian authors, seeing their films, working with Nigerians, etc.)

Finally, under the heading **4. What I Want to Learn from this Course** describe what you would like to learn in the next five weeks. Mention topics, countries, regions, or issues that you are particularly interested in.

To view examples, go to Discussion #1 Bios.

In your word-processing program, the bios should be 1.5 to 2 single-spaced pages with a font of 10 or 12.

Save your bio, then copy it and go into the WebCt discussion topic entitled #1 *Bios*. Click on compose and when the message screen pops up, paste your bio into the box for the message. Type your name as the subject of the thread (see bios already posted).

BE SURE to click on *preview* (this is required, not optional) to see how your message will look before you *post* it as sometimes the formatting is lost when it is copied. Edit as needed so that the major sections are separated.

NOTE WELL If you post a message that you feel must be deleted, email .1@osu.edu with the number of the message, the title of the discussion and an explanation. Messages cannot be edited once they are posted, but they can be deleted and another message posted.

By June 30th, read through all the bios and reply to three people's bios (if you want to reply to more than three, please do it by clicking on the "*reply privately*")

option). You may want to ask questions ("can you tell me more about") or share ideas or an experience as your first step in building community. Remember we each speak only for ourselves, not our race, our nation, or our gender, etc. So don't ask Binta from Nigeria, "what do Nigerian women think about..." ask her what do you think about...."

Also keep in mind that we are all learning how to show respect online. Since we come from many cultures and have not "met" each other before, we need to learn from each other as we interact online what is viewed as polite or rude, embarrassing, funny, or comforting, etc. Before you post a message, read it over to see if it could be misread in a way you do not mean to come across. You can always ask a person, "it is acceptable for me to" Don't assume everyone shares your culture's norms. Because it is acceptable in your culture to ask a person you just met questions about their marital status or religion, do not assume it is acceptable in everyone else's culture to do so.

Criteria for assessment of Assignment 1:

1. Did you follow directions for content and format in composing your bio?
2. Did you post your bio in the Bio discussion by the date assigned?
3. Did you respond to three people's bios in ways that promote cultural understanding and community?