

## Essay Assignment

### Guidelines

1. This paper should be approximately 7 pages long. You should cite the assigned readings.
2. You should have a works cited page. You may choose the format (MLA, Chicago style, etc...) but be consistent.
3. A hard-copy of the paper is due in-class on Thursday, 1 March 2012. Late papers will be penalized.
4. You are free to discuss your ideas with each other and with your instructors; the paper you submit, however, should reflect your own work. Please review the handout "Paper Writing Guidelines" before beginning this assignment.
5. All papers must be submitted to turnitin.com by 11:59PM on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.
6. Turnitin.com class ID: 4812058      Password: 110jpower

### **Paper Topic:**

In an article entitled "The Politics of Recognition", a political theorist named Charles Taylor wrote this:

"some feminists have argued that women in patriarchal societies have been induced to adopt a depreciatory image of themselves. They have internalized a picture of their own inferiority, so that even when some of the objective obstacles to their advancement fall away, they may be incapable of taking advantage of the new opportunities. And beyond this, they are condemned to suffer the pain of low self-esteem. An analogous point has been made in relation to blacks: that white society has for generations projected a demeaning image of them, which some of them have been unable to resist adopting. Their own self-depreciation, on this view, becomes one of the most potent instruments of their own oppression."

Should the government use its power to address this? Please keep the readings and lectures of the course in mind.

### **Things I would do if I was you:**

1. I would use *Invisible Man*, the Civil Rights readings, and *The Feminine Mystique*, but I would not limit myself to only those readings.
2. I would think about the relationship between liberty and equality and potential trade-offs between them.
3. I would talk to my instructors.
4. I would get started right away.
5. I would edit and proofread.
6. I would curse my instructor.
7. I would listen to Yoda: "Try not. Do or do not. There is no try."