WST 101 Final Topics: Pick one

1. Explore one of the following: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, forced slavery. How can we stop trafficking and labor or sex slavery? Research any one activist organization that is resisting one of these kinds of trafficking. You can even call up this organization or visit them and ask them a few questions to help with your topic. Can the U.S. government stop sex trafficking or labor slavery and trafficking happening within our borders? What does your research show? What is your theory regarding trafficking? For example, can you use social construction of gender theory to talk about the causes of this oppression?

2. Compare the reproductive rights in the U.S. with those in a progressive society, such as France or Norway or Sweden. Do these societies offer choices to women regarding reproductive rights and justice? What are your findings? What are some your insights after doing this research? You can even call up Planned Parenthood or visit them to ask a few questions related to your topic. What is your theory of reproductive justice in the US? Does intersectional theory and social construction give us some insight?

3. Research any one aspect of women in prison in the U.S. Read any recent book by Angela Davis to give you a start. If you know someone who works in any correctional facility you can talk to them, or an organization that works with incarcerated women. What is your theory of some aspect of incarceration of women? Take a look at the GWU blog www.womeninandbeyond.org and www.powerinside.org. Does social construction theory help us understand this particular aspect of women in prison that you are discussing.

5. Interview one of the social workers in the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and research about the current laws in New York that deal with domestic violence and the effect of these laws to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in NY and in the U.S. Do you think these laws are effective? What is your theory about laws protecting or not protecting women victims of domestic violence enough? Can we use social construction theory to understand the causes, nature and results of women’s violence in relationships within the family?

Note: Try to look at your topic through the lenses of race, class, and gender. Arrive at your theory after doing the research.

Feel free to attach graphs, video or photographs to your paper.
Use the following to help you do your research: your WST text book; journal and magazine articles in the NCC database (go to the library website for this and you can print out the articles from your computer); Films on Demand on the NCC database; Ms Magazine, www.thenation.com, www.nytimes.com, and www.democracynow.com (a radio station 99.5 on the dial); www.pbs.org (Channel 13 and 21). You can use a short personal story to support your findings. You can also use a survey. You can get information from the particular organization connected with your topic.

Quote or refer to the authors you have read re your topic. Attach a Works Cited page. Cite all your sources as you write a paper. Please don’t copy from the articles and pass them off as your own.

For example, if you are summarizing from an article, make sure to put in parenthesis the last name of the author and page number after the summary or quote.