

Apply our Readings:

Once during the course of the semester you'll relate course readings to current events, recent writing, contemporary works of art, or something in pop culture. Your goal should be to think about ways our readings feel relevant in our actual, contemporary world. There are two parts to the assignment:

Part 1: Writing

Choose one of our assigned readings for the day, and identify one of the following:

- A current event that aligns with or challenges themes or concepts discussed in the chosen reading.
- A piece of contemporary writing (e.g., a news article, essay, blog post, TikTok, or TED talk) that connects with some element of our reading.
- A work of art (painting, sculpture, photo, etc.) that resonates with the ideas in our reading.
- A piece of pop culture that clearly relates

Write about 250 words (at least 200 and no more than 500 words) that do the following:

- Summarize the idea you want to engage with from the day's reading.
- Briefly introduce the current event, contemporary writing, or work of art that you selected, highlighting the points that relate to the chosen reading. (For example, for a text or art what is this, who is the author or artist, when was it written or composed, and what is it about? For current events: what is this? Who are the main players? Why does this matter?)
- Explain the connection between the chosen reading and the contemporary content, artwork, or event. How do the concepts, theories, or content from the reading find resonance or contrast in the content that you've chosen to compare it to? How does the chosen content or artwork illuminate or challenge the concepts in the reading?
- Share your personal thoughts and reflections on the connection you've established. How does this connection enhance your understanding of the reading? Or how does this reading help you think differently about our contemporary world?

Post at least 15 minutes before class by replying all to our class "Apply our Readings" email thread. (To clarify: yes, the idea is to share with the entire class!)

Part 2: In-Class Discussion

At some point during the class following your email you should share your insights and reflections, which should help us connect our readings to the world. The idea is to jump-start a conversation about how or why our readings matter now: not to give anything like formal presentations. This can be brief. You will satisfy the assignment if you talk for a minute or two.

Part 3: Grading

Summary of Reading (25%): Clearly summarizes a key idea or ideas from the day's assigned reading

Context for Comparison (25%): Provides relevant background on the current event, writing, art, or pop culture, including key details like creator, context, and significance.

Connection to Contemporary Content (25%): Explains a thoughtful and relevant connection.

Personal Reflection (25%): Offers insights that enhance understanding of the reading or the world

NOTE: Make sure you submit these before we discuss a text in class. There are no exceptions here, since you have the entire semester to do this, and bringing something new to class discussions is the whole point.