SOS: Commodification Process and Altternatives

Sarah Williams

Final Narrative Self Evaluation

Zoe Wright

A Quarter's Journey

This is the first quarter that I have participated in an SOS, and been so much in charge of what I was doing and learning since I started college. I have really enjoyed the freedom this quarter to choose what I am learning and when, and I found that, similar to LaDuke's experience in writing *Chronicles* the direction of my studies has shifted and changed over the quarter, and has taken on an interesting journey like quality. Through my seminar and writing work I have found interesting in the dynamics of sexism, racism, and food politics, and I felt most satisfied reading Tompkins' interpretations of the trade cards. Through my own studies I have come to conclusions regarding the interconnectedness of education, social justice, and art. My studies at the beginning of the quarter were not focused on art, but I have found as the quarter has gone art, my interaction with art in the context of education and social justice has been the most meaningful. Through my research internship I have gotten a look at what kinds of things are being studied around Trans and Queer spaces in Higher Education, and what kind of work still needs to be done.

For seminar I was able to complete every seminar writing and reading assignment. I really enjoyed the way Newman made me think about the connections that are not usually seen between business and food, and I found LaDuke's writing especially beautiful and inspiring. The most challenging part of the seminar writing that I found was finding, discussing, and connecting a news media article to the weekly readings. This challenged me to find topics in areas I don't usually look, and discuss them in concert with the readings from Newman, Tompkins, and LaDuke.

While I was unable to participate in the tasting aspect of the tasting labs, I was able to think critically about the rituals, taste memories, and outside connections around food, eating, and cooking. My favorite writing was around technology's influence on the distance between food being grown and eaten, and how that related to oppression and empowerment of women, and the dynamics that surround that connection.

Through my in-program ILC I set up a portion to be dedicated toward reading, watching, and listening to conversations around topics of education, social justice, community building, and, as the quarter went along, art. For this portion I spent a lot of time thinking and reflecting in weekly progress posts, and I wrote a final summary paper on my thoughts as the quarter concluded. I also set up a research internship with Amira Caluya at the Trans and Queer Center on campus to study what research, articles, and material could be found on the topic of trans and queer spaces or identity development programs in higher education. It became and interesting challenge to find related material and read it within the time frame of the quarter, but I am proud of the resulting final report.

Over the course of the quarter I have documented my work and progress with the Wordpress site provided by the program. Through this documentation I have learned how to use the Bibliography software Zotero, and use functions of Wordpress including mapping, creating image galleries, and working with website organization and themes.

I feel this quarter's work has been challenging and fulfilling and I am proud of the work that I have done. It has prepared me with further critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, in addition to foundation knowledge around topics I intend to further study. I know from this quarter that I can take charge of my focus and education, as well as the projects that I work. This quarter has provided me with excellent skills in leadership, both for my own personal use, and for use within organizational contexts.

Because of my work on social justice and education, in connection with my research work, I feel very passionate about continuing my work on gender, sexuality, and sexual health related studies.

**Proposed Credit Equivalencies:** \_\_16\_\_\_ Total of \_\_16\_\_\_ attempted/registered *(fill in blanks)*

4 – Commodification Processes: Racism and Sexism in Food Systems

2 – Critical Eating Studies: Tasting Labs

6 – Individual Learning Project: Internship Credits in Queer Studies Research: Trans and Queer Centered Spaces in Higher Education.

4 – Creative and Expository Writing: WordPress ePortfolio: Social Justice, Education, and Importance of Art