Course: Women in Mythic Literature

Comparing Archetypes across Cultures

From the earliest written literature of the Sumerians to the medieval legends and fairy tales of the past few centuries, we have come across several female archetypes in our class readings. The list includes:
The Creator/Destroyer
Virgin/Maiden
Queen Mother
Earth Mother
Crone/Wise Woman
Damsel in distress
Temptress
Warrior Woman
Witch

For this assignment you will:
a) Examine one of the archetypes listed above and discuss how it is portrayed in three of the stories or myths we have read from three different cultures
b) Examine how the archetype is represented in modern U.S. culture

Goals:
- To demonstrate how the values of each culture and time are reflected in the representation of the archetype
- To demonstrate an understanding of similarities and differences among different cultures and times regarding the manifestations of the archetype
- To demonstrate an awareness of the existence of the archetype in our own time and culture

Requirements:
- Clearly describe the archetype and the examples you choose from the readings (include a few brief quotations from the texts)
- Make relevant comparisons and contrasts among your examples
- Find three examples of the archetype from modern U.S. culture (a paragraph each)
- Draw some conclusions about the significance of the continuation of the archetype from ancient to modern times

Course: Introduction to Sociology

First, the concepts of social class and social stratification in the United States and the concepts of Global Stratification will be introduced to students;

Second, the video titled People Like us will be presented along with other video clips of poor people and how the Cycle of Poverty operates – this will also be related to global poverty.

Finally, the actual assignment will be for students to read the following three articles:

1. A low Income Student Asks, *"Am I as Good as You?"* – a first person account of what it is like to attend college from a low class or poor environment
2. *Poverty is a Four-Letter Word* – an article that deals with the perceptions of the poor in both the United States and other countries.
3. *Paying Forward* - an article about a family in Africa that broke the cycle of poverty and explain how they did it.

There will be questions that the students will need to write about after reading the articles – for example:

1. How is someone at a disadvantage who grows up in poverty and then has the chance to attend college?
2. Are the perceptions or stereotypes of the poor accurate or are they invalid? What impact do these perceptions have on poor people?
3. What does the person in poverty need to break out of the Cycle of Poverty?

The final part of the assignment will be to complete a three- page paper on the caste system in India and how that is different from the American class system – with specific emphasis how the caste system perpetuates poverty.

GLOBAL AWARENESS SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT 3

Course: Introduction to Computer Science

In today's world, there is an ever-growing problem called the "digital divide". There are certainly the **"haves"** (technologically more advanced) and the **"have-nots"** (little or no access to modern computers). The gap between the 2 seems to be getting even bigger. Do some preliminary internet research on this. Answer the following questions:

1. What are the 2 most profound effects that your use of technology has had on you up to this point in your life?

2. How does access to information make one's life better?

3. Would this apply to some child in Africa where just getting drinkable water is a problem? Explain your answer.

4. There was a program started a few years ago called ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD. Why was this program started and what was its hope? How is it progressing?

5. Are we (the **"haves"**) creating an information underclass in the world?

6. Are we creating one in this country?

7. Will this further deepen the divide between the rich and the poor?

8. Assuming this gap is a problem, how can it be fixed?

9. Who is responsible for fixing this problem?