Glossary Assignment

Together with a writing partner, compose a 5-7-page glossary that defines your understanding of the following core concepts and explains their relationship to one another: the body, race, gender, and agency.

**Glossary** - “A glossary is an alphabetical list of terms in a particular domain of knowledge with the definitions for those terms. Traditionally, a glossary appears at the end of a book and includes terms within that book, which are either newly introduced or at least uncommon. A core glossary is a simple glossary or defining dictionary, which enables the definition of other concepts, especially for newcomers to a language or field of study. It contains a small working vocabulary and definitions for important or frequently encountered concepts, usually including idioms or metaphors useful in a culture.” – Wikipedia

In the course of our discussions this semester we have engaged the work of a number of theorists in an attempt to understand the importance of the body to feminist theorizing and to critical analysis more generally. What has been central to our discussions is understanding the relationship between the body, race, gender and agency. Based on the readings and our class discussions, how do you now understand these core concepts and how do you understand the relationship between them? What new terms or concepts, or what new ways of defining or understanding already familiar concepts has the seminar generated for you?

In asking you to construct a glossary of these key terms, I am asking you to address the definition of a glossary provided above. Rather than the end of book, however, I'm asking you to do this at the beginning your work in the context of a course. Like a book glossary, you should similarly provide a kind of defining dictionary that maps the ‘working vocabulary’ that we have developed thus far this semester, in other words, the vocabulary that “enables the definition of other concepts, especially for newcomers to a language or field of study.” What is the vocabulary you will take with you into the second half of the course? What kind of ‘conceptual toolkit’ do the feminist theorists we have read and discuss offer us for theorizing the salience of the body and the black female body more specifically?

In composing your entries, strive to be synthetic as well as substantive and concrete. Situate your key terms in relation to specific authors whose work has significantly influenced your understanding of these terms. How does your definition compare, contrast or depart from other ways of defining these terms? When possible, try to illustrate your definitions with concrete examples that elaborate your argument with respect to specific key works. Your goal is to bring together as coherently and cohesively as possible some of the many threads of our discussions this semester in ways that will be productive for your future work.

Your final glossaries are due by 5pm on **Tuesday, March 11th** and should be submitted via email to tcampt@barnard.edu