

PREPS

Write exactly two Preps (each will count towards 2.5% of your total course grade). They give you a chance to *critically interact* with readings *before* a class discussion, and so to prepare for that discussion. An exemplary Prep might, in no more than 1 or 2 pages, do any of the following:

- Call attention to a hidden assumption in the target reading
- Question or challenge an explicit premise in the target reading
- Raise counter-evidence or objections to the claims in the target reading
- Point out ambiguous or difficult passages in the target reading and explain why that ambiguity is significant

Consult the course website to see which readings you are to write Preps for. You may, if you wish, switch slots with another student (just let me know). You may also, after consulting with me, submit additional Preps to boost your participation grades or to make up for missed seminar meetings.

In no case should a Prep simply summarize a reading; it should, instead, *do something interesting* with that reading. Bring your Prep (typed and printed) to class and be prepared to share your main thoughts with us verbally. This is not a *presentation*; show respect for your colleagues' attention and time by being *concise* and getting to the point quickly.

I will draw on your Preps in class discussion and grade them on a Unsatisfactory/Satisfactory/Exemplary basis.