Genevieve Coutant 11/19/20

Dr. Leah Perry M6 Assignment: Feminism is

Referring to Conclusion: Feminism Is, in *Introduction to Feminist Thought & Action*, discuss your key takeaways from this course. What will you carry forward and how will you apply it?

As someone who has almost always considered themself a feminist, I found this course extremely enlightening by helping me to deepen my understanding of a patriarchal culture and what I can do to move forward with a more inclusive definition of feminism. Throughout high school you are constantly asked what you want to do when you’re older and to be honest, I still don’t know, but it has become clear to me that I need to be a part of meaningful change. Due to the nature of the times, and a desperation to help, I began researching more about social justice movements, and found that what resonated with me most was the issue of climate change and environmental degradation. However, until taking this course I didn’t understand just how interconnected the issues of climate change and feminism were. I began to realize that my passion for feminism could also be applied to my goal to aid in climate relief, as well as many other social issues that all stem from a similar way of thinking. During part 2 of *Introduction to Feminist Thought & Action,* I learned the ways that language and the way we wield it has a lot to do with the ways that we view our relationships to others, and that due to historic and cultural shifts we have created a hieratical culture. Understanding the origins of misogyny allows me to understand the ways in which we can begin to reverse these destructive ways of thinking.

As we progressed through the course, something I did not expect was how strongly I connected with indigenous feminism. I was not aware of their ways of thinking, and deeply strong connection to the land. As someone who does not have that background, but cares deeply about the earth I found that my personal feminism resonated most profoundly with that of indigenous feminists. I gained a lot from this discovery and hope to keep indigenous ways of thinking in my mind and heart as I move along in my journey to help protect the earth. I also find their movements like NoDAPL and the indigenous march discussed by Tokata and Chase Iron Eyes very inspirational and hope that in the future I can fight alongside them and give them the support they deserve.

I hope to apply what I’ve learned by acting as a better ally and feminist as I move throughout my life. I have participated in protests and marches in the past, but feel that now I can participate with a greater sense of purpose and passion. Furthermore, this course has highlighted the ways in which privilege can blind you to others struggles, and while I have always “supported” initiatives like black lives matter, I feel that now I am thoroughly equipped to be a white ally that actively fights against racist ideologies instead of being a bystander. Personally, I hope to continue studying environmental science throughout college, and will carry with me the indigenous perspective of our human connection to the earth.

Word Count: 504