

## Oppositional Art Project

### **What Is Oppositional Art?**

Art that disrupts and challenges hegemonic ideology—that is, dominant beliefs or ways of seeing the world. For example, your art could:

- Challenge or parody common assumptions, prejudices, norms, and beliefs
- Show possibilities we don't commonly imagine or see in the media
- Call on viewers to stand up and make change in the world
- Flip the power hierarchies that we usually see in media
- Make viewers feel positive, empowered, nourished by what they see (rather than degraded by it)

Your art project can be funny, serious, happy, sad, or any mixture of these!

### **Assignment**

Our class will split into six groups. Your group must:

- **Create** a piece of oppositional art that relates to gender, sexuality, race, class, and/or ability (at least two).
- **Present** your art in class on April 24 (Groups 1, 2 & 3) or April 27 (Groups 4, 5, & 6) (max of 10 min for each presentation)
- **Write** a 3-4 pg paper explaining your art and directly linking it to class concepts. This paper should cover:
  - 1) What messages you want your art to express, and how they challenge hegemonic ideology. Use terms & concepts from our course, **citing at least three readings**.
  - 2) What specific images, patterns, words, or ideas you placed in the art to express these messages.
  - 3) Self-critique: Does any aspect of your art perhaps reproduce hegemonic norms and power imbalances, even unintentionally?

### **Grading**

You will receive a group grade, *except* for participation: You will each receive an individual participation grade based on how the rest of your group rates your engagement. Your art will be graded on creativity, effort, and how closely it matches the goals that you state in your essay. Your essay will be graded on the usual rubric (clarity, organization, following directions, etc).

**It should be very evident that everyone in your group worked on all aspects of the project, such as:**

- Choosing your art's goals and messages
- Physically planning and creating the art
- Planning the key ideas for your paper
- Writing and proofreading the paper

### **Possible Formats**

Fitting our course, your oppositional art should be in a pop culture format. For example, you might consider making:

- Short film or documentary
- Music video
- Commercial (video or print)
- Magazine cover
- Fashion photo shoot
- Graffiti (on a large sheet of paper)
- Comic strip
- Cartoon

*If your group has another idea, just let me know!*