**Bisrat Asefaw**

**BISAES 367**

**Professor Dr. George M. Roberts**

**Final Reflection Paper**

I learned about the ways in which America has created a system used to categorize people by their race which is known as a racial formation. This system was created to favors the white race and puts them above other races. It then created an environment that allowed for white people to have the opportunity to flourish and grow as a race giving them more access to social and governmental benefits. It was interesting to learn about how different countries categorize their races. For example, the race categorization in Brazil vs. in America is completely the opposite. It was also interesting to learn about America’s policies on immigration and how it has changed drastically over time. All of the races other than Anglo-Saxons were struggling to gain neutralization and gain access to equal rights. Another thing that I learned in this class is how politicians like Trump were able to create massive racial hate between American people of many races by distributing hate speech. Another thing that has stuck with me was how illegal immigrants were mistreated by the big fashion industries such as Forever21. The illegal immigrants were taken advantage of as they were working in an environment that was unsafe, lacked benefits, and barely paid for their hard labor.

One thing that I will be taking with me in the future is that I will make sure to do my research into the companies that I tend to shop at/economically support. This will make sure that I am supporting the stores that actually support workers’ rights and don’t exploit their workers. I will openly discuss the immigration policies and problems, and what the American race and ethnicity are. Now that I have a clear understanding of how America is built and how its economy is grown to this phase, I will engage in conversations that concern these topics. I will always talk, protest and fight for equal rights in America.

  I have been actively participating in all aspects of the class from weekly reading, doing discussion board posts, and completing the quizzes in time. I have been always participating in an active discussion thread that has topics of my interest. Most of the time I complete the weekly reading before watching the lecture videos if there is one for that week. I ask my classmates on topics that are vague and/or readings that I need to talk about through discord. I also respond to class questions that are sent through discord if I know them and at least I try to create an environment for discussion.

This class has been very great in the sense that although it was asynchronous all the quizzes and discussion posts were very doable. I appreciate the amount of time given to complete the quizzes as we were given plenty of time to prepare ourselves. Each week’s reading has been very beneficial and interesting to me as it has taught me how America is created through racial formations. One thing that I would have wanted different and felt like I missed out on this quarter was the sense of face-to-face discussion and debating on topics. One other course that I am taking this quarter is also asynchronous, but has a once a week zoom meet up for an hour that allows for the students to discuss what they have read in the following week. I feel like it would have been better to have this kind of discussion rather than the weekly discussion posts that don’t allow students to actively engage as a zoom meeting would. Although working independently has given me plenty of time and provides me with an opportunity to have a flexible work schedule, it also hindered me from actively participating in face-to-face discussions with my fellow classmates. All in all, I think the classes reading were amusing and interesting, I personally have benefited from each reading a lot.