

### Week 3 - Bias Assignment (5%)

**Deadline:** Due Sunday, May 30th (11:55pm). This must be uploaded to the week 4 assignment folder. Assignments will NOT be accepted by email. Assignments sent to the wrong place will be considered late.

**\*\*Race Facilitation Group has a one-week extension for this assignment\*\***

**Length:** 350-500 words. However, this length is a guideline. The content and insight in your reflection is a much better measure of the quality of your work than the number of words.

Please proofread your work and make sure have included your name, student number, course name and number (06), and the date at the beginning of the document. (No title page is required.) as well as the title *Bias Reflection*.

The Week 3 Tutorial and the content of the Week 3 lecture (as well as the accompanying videos) should give you a sense of how biases can creep into our thinking and how are beliefs and understanding of the world is constructed by our society as well as how our biases and socialization will affect our critical thinking.

At a multicultural institution like FIC, biases towards or against people based on things like religion / culture / ethnicity / gender can play important roles in friendships, group work, classroom experience, and education satisfaction. Furthermore, biases built into our socialization will affect how we see news stories—whether we interpret their implications for the economy, for the environment, for one country (but not another), or whether we dismiss those implications as boring or unimportant.

In this reflection, you are to *reflect on your own biases, where they came from, how they may affect your learning experience, and how being aware of these biases can help to make your experience the best one possible.*

#### **Getting started**

To help identify biases you might have, you can imagine/think about:

- Who made most of the cultural products (TV, movies, music) you consumed growing up? Who did they feature?
- Are there many different cultural groups where you grew up? Does the social power seem evenly distributed? Are there societal biases against any groups?
- Do you view any cultures/ethnicities as commonly having certain traits like being more intelligent (or not), more hardworking (or not), more aggressive (or not)?
- How would you feel if you were put into a group with people from another country? Another ethnicity or religion?
- How often do you find yourself in a group where you are the only person who looks like you?

**Grading:** I am interested in the depth of your reflection: your thinking process, the effort to identify your biases and where they came from, the examination of how having those biases can affect your interpretation of particular news events or how you see people. (I am not concerned with which specific biases you have.) You will not get grades for telling me that you have no biases, or that you

used to and now don't. Everyone has some form of bias and recognizing them is an important first step. Your responses will be not be shared with others.