WAGS 100 Assignment 2

Paper Format: Length: 4-5 pages, double spaced. You must include proper citations in MLA or Chicago Manual of Style format.

DUE: Sunday April 1st by 5pm: A thesis statement for Paper 2. You should email it to BOTH kshandilya@amherst.edu and mrhunt@amherst.edu.

DUE: Paper 2 is due Friday April 6th by 5pm. Please hand in your papers to Prof. Hunt (box outside 13 Chapin Hall) and also attach a copy in the Dropbox.

OPTION 1

Western feminism has usually included the following:

1. A secular (as opposed to religious) conception of agency and female empowerment;
2. A commitment to liberal individualism often seen as being in tension with family ties and responsibilities;
3. A belief that autonomy requires sexual freedom;
4. an emphasis on “saving” the less fortunate women of the world;
5. a belief in the possibility of universal sisterhood.

The readings for Unit II contain critiques of some or all of the above assumptions of Western feminism. Pick one of the above tenets of Western feminism and explore the way in which two or more readings in Unit II launch their critique of this tenet. In what ways do they trouble this assumption? What alternatives do they suggest?

The two readings do not necessarily have to approach the tenet in the same way nor do they have to offer the same solutions. The goal of the paper is to engage with both the tenet of Western feminism and its critique, and to critically explore whether the alternative suggested is an effective one or not and explain why you think so.

For OPTION 1 you may NOT use a text you have used in your previous paper. For example, if you discussed *The Pickup* in Paper 1, you may not use it again for Paper 2.

OPTION 2:

Saskia Sassen writes in “Two Stops in Today’s New Global Geographies”:  “…many socioeconomic and political conditions typically conceptualized in micro-level terms actually have complex interactions with particular macro-level economic restructuring processes.”  (p. 487).   All of the readings in Unit III in some way seek to connect the micro to the macro, the individual or the individual household/ workplace to larger global forces and trends.  These include such topics as:

1. The structure of the global economy and its impact on third world subjects
2. The impact of environmental disaster on local communities

Please pick one such micro-level gendered event or practice featured in any one or more of the readings for Unit III (you do not have to confine yourself to the two topics mentioned above).  Trace out some of the ways that it intersects or interacts with, reinforces or subverts macro-level forces or events.  Finish by imagining and describing some ways that change, either at the micro or macro level, might create better (or worse) living and working conditions for women and/or men.