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21W.742J / SP.575J / WGS.575J Writing About Race  
Spring 2007

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21W.742J/SP.575J, Writing about Race  
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Rebecca Faery

Reflections on Racial Identity  
Due in SES #1

As a starting point for our work together this semester, I'd like you to write for a bit on your own racial or ethnic identity. What "race" or "races" do you see yourself belonging to? Why? What are the sources of your identity as a person of a particular race/ethnicity? When did you first become aware that you had that identity? How was that awareness acquired? What experiences in your life have confirmed that identity or challenged it? In what ways has your racial identity intersected with other aspects of your identity, such as gender, nationality, religious beliefs, ethnicity, sexuality? What do you believe are the implications and consequences of your having the particular racial identity that you are claiming here? What do you believe is the usefulness in general, if any, of "racial" categories and definitions?

Your reflections on your racial identity (typed, please) are due in class on Thursday. We will talk together about what you've written, sharing excerpts, to see what all of you come up with in your efforts to explore these questions, and I look forward to reading what you write.