

## ang070/ang071 S/Ü "Key Concepts in Cultural Studies"

### Assignment 1: Identity, Discourse, Media – Print Media: Slave Narrative

This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. It is ungraded but a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki. Additionally, you can receive feedback in the office hours of your respective instructors.

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a cover sheet and the statement on plagiarism. Present your results in complete sentences. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

Please analyse the following passages by addressing the tasks below:

He tried his utmost to corrupt the pure principles my grandmother had instilled. He peopled my young mind with unclean images, such as only a vile monster could think of. I turned from him with disgust and hatred. But he was my master. I was compelled to live under the same roof with him – where I saw a man forty years my senior daily violating the most sacred commandments of nature. He told me I was his property; that I must be subject to his will in all things. My soul revolted against the mean tyranny. But where could I turn for protection? No matter whether the slave girl be as black as ebony or as fair as her mistress. In either case, there is no shadow of law to protect her from insult, from violence, or even from death; all these are inflicted by fiends who bear the shape of men. The mistress, who ought to protect the helpless victim, has no other feelings towards her but those of jealousy and rage. The degradation, the wrongs, the vices, that grow out of slavery, are more than I can describe. (*Incidents* 29-30)

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. 1861. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2016. Print.

#### 1. Formal and media-specific analysis

1. Comment briefly on relevant formal aspects (narration, focalization, etc.).
2. Identify various discourses in the given passages by considering terms / vocabulary; settings / institutions; subject positions / roles.

#### 2. Functional analysis: Toward a problem-oriented sample analysis

Based on the data generated through your formal and media-specific analysis, provide a **coherently written** analysis with a clear research problem that addresses the following points:

1. the discursive constructedness and representations of identity;
2. the relevant contexts (historical, cultural, literary, generic, etc.).

#### 3. Comparison and/or contrast: Second passage

Suggest one other passage from the text that contrasts and/or corresponds with the given passage in an aspect relevant to your research problem. Briefly discuss how both passages relate to the problem by addressing differences in representation and their possible functions.

#### 4. Lecture

In a short concluding paragraph, relate your analysis to the discursive constructedness of periods in American literary and cultural studies (PD Dr. Keck, Prof. Kirchhofer; Prof. Wurr).