

Prof. Rego

Coming to Terms with Herskovits

Part 1:

Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of *Rewriting*, by Joe Harris, and write 1-2 pages of notes in which you "come to terms" with his work. What is his "project"? What are his key words and ideas? What do you see as being the strengths and limits of his approach? You may also want to write about ways in which Harris's approach to writing might be different or similar to the kinds of writing you have done before. If you have studied in a different country, you may also want to think about how it differs (or not) from the kind of writing you were encouraged to do there. Your notes will be used as material for discussion on **Wednesday, September 3**. Please post to Blackboard and bring a hard copy to class.

Part 2:

After discussing *Rewriting* in class and reading the selection from *Cultural Relativism*, by Melville Herskovits (posted under "Course Documents"), please write a 2-3 page piece in which you "come to terms" with it. According to Harris's approach, this includes presenting Herskovits's project, his key terms or ideas, the evidence he uses to make his point, and the strengths and limits of his approach. As you start to read and make notes, you may find that you have something more to say than just "come to terms" with Herskovits's text; you may want to "forward" or "counter" parts or all of his argument. Feel free to do this if you'd like -- it's what we eventually want to get at in this course -- but don't skip the "coming to terms" required in understanding and communicating the author's claims. I anticipate, then, that some of your papers will mostly focus on Herskovits's text, while others might highlight some aspects of it in order to develop a new argument or perspective.

Please post your paper to Blackboard by NOON on **Monday, September 8**. We will workshop two papers in each section on Monday. If you'd like to volunteer to have your paper workshopped, please let me know by Sunday night and bring 13 copies of it to class. If you let me know in advance, I may even be able to bring the copies for you.

Have fun!