Western & Indigenous Logic
Understanding the Role of Indigeneity in Western Culture

1. In your own words, define indigeneity.

2. How is the United States an exceptional/unique settler colonial state?

3. How and why did the multicultural movement backfire and create a new realm of exclusion?

4. What is a dichotomy or a binary formulation?

5. Give one example of a realm that transcends binary boundaries.

6. Finish the sentence: According to Hegel, the master/slave dialectic only exists if…

7. What was Franz Fanon’s socio-diagnostic critique of Hegel’s master/slave dialectic?

8. In context of historical settler colonialism in the U.S., what did the black body symbolize? How does this position relate to Karl Marx’s theory of primitive accumulation?

9. In the context of historical American settler colonialism, what did the indigenous body symbolize? How does this position relate to Karl Marx’s theory of primitive accumulation?

10. What was the main motive urging the colonization of the United States?

11. What does ‘double’ or dual consciousness entail?
12. What is interpellation (according to Althusser) and how does it apply to the politics of recognition?

13. In Luci Tapahonso’s poem, “That American Flag,” there are two inherent literary and cultural realms of consciousness- a mainstream consciousness (Western) and an indigenous consciousness (Navajo/Dine). How does the Western binary formulation of “us versus them” differ from the Navajo/Dine binary formation of “us versus them” in the poem?

14. In the same poem, which historical event exemplifies the American move to assimilate or eliminate Navajo (Dine) people during 1864? Which historical event set the precedent for Indian removal from native lands?

15. In relation to the process towards rights for Blacks, why is the date 1864 so poignant?

16. In the poem “That American Flag,” which colors are shared by both Americans and Navajo (Dine) people?

17. What were the stages of Indigenous elimination according to Iyko Day?

18. How many Indigenous tribes claim national sovereignty today?

19. How many reservations exist within the United States?

20. Do you believe that the social death of the Native American exists/persists in 2020? Regardless of your answer, explain your reasoning.

21. Why did Yale students in the English Department protest in 2016?

22. Name one contemporary example of settler colonialism.

23. Define historical trauma.
24. Why might writing about nonfiction topics in poetry (or in a form that moves away from the prose structure—proper sentences read from left to right in lines- paragraphs) subvert the traditional categorization of genres and work to jam a particular way of thinking?

25. Two-part question: (1) Who are the Cherokee Freedman? (2) Why is their tribal recognition important especially in context of a recent district court case (2017)?