Essay 1: Critical Analysis Using Steger (25%), spring 2013, Prof. Scanlan

Basic Directions: Write a 3-4 page essay based on a close reading of one our short stories, the play, the essay “Stage Mothers,” or *Open City*. It is especially important for this essay that students use one or more of Manfred Steger’s ideas about globalization as the cornerstone of the analysis.

More Specifically: In writing this analysis, you will need to consider one of the ways of analyzing that we have discussed this semester—what I call tools—such as the 5 categories or the summary. You should select the parts of the tool that help you to make sense of the literary work. The key is to make assertions about what the work means in terms of: what happens, to whom does it happen, how globalization works, and how does it feel to the characters—using the literary work itself as evidence.

5 Categories:

1. Character

2. Setting

3. Plot, POV, narration

4. Themes and symbols

5. Language: diction, syntax, grammar, style

Steger: We have talked about Steger’s definition of globalization, its four characteristics (pages14-15), its historical periods, its economic dimensions, its political dimensions, and its cultural dimensions (Chapter 5). I suggest choosing that work of literature that you like the most, and then seeking out certain scenes that may link to Steger, rather than the other way around.

Essential Details:

1. Include at least four direct quotations (see OWL).

2. Provide an MLA style works cited page.

3. Page length: 3-4 pages, typed, using standard margins, fonts, and font size (12). Use

MLA format. See me or the Purdue OWL website for details on formatting.

4. Due Date: April 9, 2013, at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted;

early papers are always accepted.

Readings:

■ “A Good Fall,” Ha Jin

■ “An Arranged Marriage,” Nell Freudenberger

■ “Assimilation,” E.L. Doctorow

■ “The Inheritance of Loss,” Kiran Desai

■ *Open City*, Teju Cole

■ “A Short Play about Globalization,” Dominic

Orlando

■ “Stage Mothers,” Elif Batuman