Essay 1: Critical Analysis Using Steger or Homesickness (25%), spring 2015, Prof. Scanlan

Basic Directions: Write a 3-4 page essay based on a close reading of one our short stories. It is especially important for this essay that students use either Manfred Steger’s ideas about globalization or my ideas about the four types of homesickness as the cornerstone of the analysis. You may also combine Steger with homesickness if you think that will help your analysis.

More Specifically: In writing this analysis, you will need to consider the basic categories of literary analysis that we discussed at the beginning of the semester (see below). You should select and write about those categories 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 characteristics, its historical periods, its economic dimensions, its political dimensions, and its cultural dimensions (Chapter 5—which we need to read for next week). 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.

Homesickness: Colonial Homesickness, Modern Homesickness, Global Homesickness, and Radical Homesickness.

Essential Details:

1. Include at least four direct quotations from the text (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: March 31, 2015, 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

■ Any of the stories from Jhumpa Lahiri’s *Interpreter of Maladies*

■ *The Terminal*, dir. Steven Spielberg