ENG 501: Book review project

Point value: 50 pts
Due dates: October 12 by 6:30 pm (send to me as an attachment to an email)
Note: If you request and receive an extension of more than two business days for this assignment, you forfeit your opportunity to revise the assignment.

Course learning outcomes address through this assignment
- Develop a strategy for entering a new scholarly discourse community and participating in relevant discussions
- Gain a healthy appreciation for and awareness of the vast scholarly landscape surrounding any issue, problem, or text in English studies
- Begin to develop your own voice as a scholar in your specific subfield

Description of the assignment
For this project, you will write a 1200-1500 word review of a very recently published scholarly monograph or anthology related to your research interests (other marginally scholarly books may work but be sure to clear them with me!). You should select a text that has not been widely reviewed so that you can submit your review to a relevant journal for publication.

Remember that a review is not a summary of the contents of a text, nor is it simply a statement of your subjective opinions. A review presents an evaluation of the book based on predefined, writer-selected criteria, providing the reader with insights about the book’s success and potential interest to readers from a particular perspective.

For this book review, you should evaluate the book based on criteria relevant to the readers of your target journal.

Example evaluation criteria (you would not use all or perhaps any of these; they are examples to help spur your thinking)

Does the book…
1. explore timely issues relevant to scholars in this discipline
2. provide a unique or novel perspective important for the discipline
3. report on much needed research in the field
4. bring together many voices and points of view on important issues (think anthologies)
5. explore difficult concepts in a clear and/or demystifying manner
6. fill a gap as a much needed text in the field that would be appropriate as a graduate or undergraduate course text

Grading criteria for the written review:

Purpose:
Does the review…(some of the specific content for your review may be determined by the guidelines provided by your target journal)
1. begin with an opening section providing data about the book including: title, author, publisher, date of publication, and price
2. provide an introduction that contextualizes the review and may provide a **brief** summary (generally a few paragraphs) of the book’s contents
3. analyze the book based on the criteria you develop
4. include concrete and specific examples and details from the book to support all general statements
5. avoid merely summarizing the contents of the book

**Product:**

Is the review…
1. the correct length (1200-1500 words)
2. organized according to your evaluation not the writer’s/book’s structure
3. well-written
4. grammatically correct
5. proofread and spell-checked

**Process:**

Does your review…
1. reflect that you considered carefully what details from the text to include
2. demonstrate your ability to develop your own criteria and apply them to the text