Motherline Muse. Paper details: This project aims to explore some aspect of our real or imagined ‘mother line.’ Writing a 2 to 3 page reflection paper and creating a 3 minute video presentation on one's maternal lineage is one way that we will begin to think creatively and critically about our motherline. In this project, you do not need to do any additional research. If you want to do additional research, you are welcome to do so. Moving beyond a history that often begins and ends with the story of our fathers, the mother line muse places women’s stories and women’s history at the center of the analysis. In Sexes and Genealogies, French feminist psychoanalysis Luce Irigaray writes that knowledge of women’s genealogy allows us to maintain a healthy sense of identity. Irigaray explains: "Each of us has a female family tree: we have a mother, a maternal grandmother and great-grandmothers, we have daughters. Because we have been exiled to the house of our husbands, it is easy to forget the special quality of the female genealogy; we might even come to deny it. Let us try to situate ourselves within that female genealogy so that we can win and hold on to our identity. Let us not forget moreover, that we already have a history that certain women, despite all the cultural obstacles, have made their mark upon history and all too often have been forgotten by us." How do we begin this project? In this project, you will start with a story, ritual, tradition, practice, or memory that is related to the power, culture, tradition, or voices that have been carried through, forgotten, reimagined, sustained, and even rejected within one's maternal ancestry. The starting place will vary. Begin by answering these questions: Who do you want to talk about? Whose story will you tell? What happened? Where? When? Why? What stories are waiting to be told? Is there a theme that is surfacing that connects to some of the themes that we have already explored in this class? Hint: look back at the readings from Week 4 for inspiration and ideas. What will the paper look like? In your 2 to 3 page reflection paper, you can begin to answer the above questions above. OR, you can get creative! Perhaps you can write an imagined diary entry from a maternal ancestor to you. Maybe you can write a short story. The possibilities are endless! And yes, if you want to do some research for this paper, you can do so (but it is not required)