

Due Date: Check syllabus
Points Possible: 100 points

This project is worth a significant portion of your grade. You should start on it early on in the term, not wait until the last few weeks to begin. It's the most important aspect as far as I'm concerned because it demonstrates to me your comprehension of the course material and concepts. It should also prove to be entertaining as well. Make sure that you have sufficiently covered all concepts well. *I cannot stress that enough; cover the topic thoroughly.* Also, make sure you have included everything asked for in each assignment (as a guideline, this will take at least 5-7 pages, but by all means do not be limited by this number. This doesn't apply to the photo blog assignment). Also, don't fluff up your papers with filler just to get added length; I can always spot this and it doesn't bode well for your grade. Remember I want to see you critically engaged in the material; that is, show me you're thinking and you understand the material! So *use your sociological imagination* when you do this assignment.

*** Choose one of the following for your final paper.

Assignment 1: Blog

For this assignment you are to depict sociological concepts from human sexuality through photographs. Each lesson should be depicted pictorially. You are to take five photographs for each lesson. We cover 13 lessons with five pictures each for a grand total of 65 photographs. For each photograph you are to add a caption beneath it describing, using correct sociological terms, what is being depicted. It is highly recommended that you take the photographs as we cover them in the class so you will have a clear idea of the concept and if you do this correctly, and you will spread out the workload over the semester instead of procrastinating. The best way to accomplish this assignment is to create a blog to host your photos and captions (www.blogger.com is a good example). All photos *must* be your own and taken expressly for the purpose of this assignment (also use good judgment with regard to indecency). The captions *must* include a sociological description of the photograph (all terms used correctly!). On the day the final project is due you will turn in a piece of paper with your name and the link to your blog on it.

Assignment 2: Conduct Some Research

Using the concepts we have gone over in class, I want you to complete a research paper on a subject discussed in class or relating to concepts we have discussed. You can choose any research topic you like relating to sociology. If you are unsure about your research paper topic, feel free to ask me to make sure it fits the criteria.

Please make sure your research paper meets the following criteria:

1. 5 to 7 pages in length
2. 3 to 5 scholarly sources (you can have more sources, but 3 to 5 have to be scholarly)
3. All sources must have correct in text citations according to ASA or MLA standards
4. A works cited page in ASA or MLA format must be included listing all works cited
5. A thesis statement included in the intro paragraph

The following instructions will help guide you through the research paper writing process:

Step 1: Decide on a topic, do some research, write a thesis statement

Decide on a topic. Select a topic you are interested in. If you are unsure where to begin or how to find a topic look through your class notes, visit news websites, listen to news radio, watch the news or borrow ideas from

your own life, other classes you've taken, friends or family. When you decide on a topic, if you are unsure if it fits with the class and concepts we have discussed, run the topic by me.

Do some research. It is a very good idea to do some simple searching of the library and/or sociology journals to get an idea of what research has already been done in your area of study. This will give some guidance for your own study. JSTOR and SOC Abstracts make good search engines. Check with the library on campus for assistance in searching for scholarly articles to consult. More information can be found here: <http://www.lavc.edu/library/home.aspx>

Write a thesis statement. Take your topic and organize it into a thesis statement. For some tips on how to do this, feel free to reference: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/>

Step 2: Organize your ideas and find scholarly sources that support your ideas

Organize your ideas. After you write your thesis statement, organize your paper into key ideas supporting your thesis. The scholarly sources you find should support these ideas

Find scholarly sources that support your ideas. When you did your initial research for selecting a topic you probably found several scholarly articles to use already. If you need additional scholarly articles to support your hypothesis, continue your research. Do not just pick the first 3 to 5 articles with applicable titles, there are likely some amazing articles and research you are missing which could make your research paper even stronger. Once you find articles from which you can integrate quotes to support your paper, connect the quotes with the key ideas they support, cite the quote and provide analysis on how that quote supports your idea. Do not forget to properly cite any sources you use with in text citations. More information on in text citations can be found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/02/>

Step 3: Write your paper and works cited page

Write your paper. Do not forget to integrate key concepts, terms, theories, and ideas that were addressed in class, the powerpoints and in the reading.

Write your works cited page. Do not forget to properly cite any sources you use within your paper in your works cited page. More information on works cited pages may be found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/03/>

Step 4: Proof your paper

Proof your paper. It is important to get in the habit of proof reading your paper to check for spelling errors, grammar usage, and to make sure it just makes sense. Sometimes it is helpful to read your paper out loud and see if it 'sounds right.' This can be a good tool to catch any areas of the paper that are confusing.

Step 5: Turn your paper in and do a little dance

Tips and Hints

- Select a topic you really enjoy or want to know more about because you will be much more interested in (and maybe have fun) doing research and writing the paper
- Each key idea being addressed should 1 to 2 paragraphs long
- Each paragraph should have a topic and concluding sentence
- Each paragraph should include scholarly support for your key idea or thesis statement

- If you include a quote and/or in text citation, do not forget to provide analysis of how that quote relates to your thesis statement and/or topic sentence
- If you get stuck, talk to someone else about your topic. They may be able to provide a unique perspective or new direction for your research
- Relax and do not become overwhelmed. If you do a little bit of the paper at a time (one week for each step) you will feel much more relaxed.
- Make use of the resources you have on campus