

College of Social Sciences

Department: Psychology
Course: 100w
Instructor(s): Nancy Eldred
Assignment: Literature Review
Incorporates ACRL Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Students prepare a literature review on a historical and influential source journal article. Examples of source articles are placed on reserve by the instructor. Students are asked to follow the research forward to see how that research developed; students do citation searching. Students spend one session with the Psychology Librarian in a library classroom where library search strategies specific to the assignment are covered. They generally use at least two databases. The Library plagiarism module is also required.

Department: Sociology
Course: 100w
Instructor(s): Michelle Durden
Assignment: Research Paper
Incorporates ACRL Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4

Describe the topic of your intended library research paper in a few paragraphs, or about 1 to 1 ½ pages, typed, double-spaced. The topic can be anything you choose, but you must approach it using sociological thinking and it must utilize some of the different types of sociological writing we will learn about this semester. Your proposal should include a description of the topic and a list of sociological questions that you intend to address. If you already know something about your topic and what direction you want to go with it, you should include that too.

This assignment serves multiple purposes. One is for you to consider various topics of research, to commit to one, and to begin to think about how you might go about researching it. The second is to get feedback about strategies of thinking and places to find information, so it helps to be as detailed as possible. In the next few weeks, as you begin to do research, you will narrow your topic and develop a list of sources.

Required sources: For the research paper, you will need 8 to 12 academic sources, at least one of which must be a book. We will discuss how to evaluate sources and determine whether or not they are “academic.”

Department: Sociology
Course: Sociology 181
Instructor(s): Scott Myers-Lipton
Assignment: Sociological Essay
Incorporates ACRL Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4

Length minimum: 12 pages, maximum: 36 pages. Double-spaced.

Your sociological essay must address the following five areas:

i) Historical Overview

Clearly define a social issue/problem that is present at your service-learning site. Then provide an historical overview of this social problem/issue? You will want to discuss: when the social problem/issue developed in the U.S. (and internationally if appropriate); how has the problem/issue changed in the past 100 years (provide facts and figures to support your points (provide a multi-ethnic approach); how your organization fits into the history of the social problem/issue; how various groups in society (e.g., non-profits, local and federal government, academia, and educators) have responded to this social issue/problem; and if any social movements that have occurred as a result of this social issue. (Who participated in them? How did they begin? What did they accomplish?)

2) Service-Learning Activity

Describe what you did at your site and how it relates to the social

problem/issue you have identified at your service-learning site. Please provide specific examples from your site. (Without examples, your paper lacks depth and richness.)

3) Social Theory

Choose a social theory to explain your social issue/problem. If you are not going to use one of the three major theories, explain how the theory [e.g., feminist theory or deviance] relates to one of the major sociological theories. Please explain the social theory that you have chosen in some depth (at least 2 paragraphs). Identify at least two theorists that are identified with the theory you have chosen, and discuss their main contributions to the development of the theory. Most importantly, use the theory and several of its concepts to explain the social problem/issue at your service-learning site? Again, provide specific examples from your site.

4) Sociological Research

How does recent sociological research provide insight into your issue?

Choose three current scholarly journal articles and discuss the specific problem/issue discussed, the methods, the theoretical orientation of the author, the participants, the results, the implication of the results for your site and social problem, and if the results are consistent with your service-learning site observations. Please use several specific examples from your site.

5) Social Solutions

What are specific policy initiatives that have been either initiated or have been suggested to solve your social problem? What institutional changes must occur to solve your issue? Does your service-learning site offer systemic or individual change? Please analyze your response to this last question from a sociological perspective.