

ANT 230-02: Final ESSAY
Kristina Arakelyan, Fall 2018

The final paper (6-8 pages) will be an analysis of an issue, to be selected from a list of options, related to the understanding of culture and crime on local, national, or international levels that is the subject of an unsettled debate. You will explore the competing perspectives on the chosen issue and draw your own conclusions based on independent research.

As a reminder, the essay should follow the following format: double-spaced, 12-point, Times Roman font, and one-inch margins. Students can use the citation style of their choosing (consistency is key). Written assignments are to be submitted via Turnitin in a MS-Word compatible format by **11:59pm on December 14th**. Make the file name: **lastname_firstname_final.doc**. PLEASE NOTE THAT NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Your essay should summarize the opposing arguments in the literature and present your own critical analysis of the evidence offered by the different sides. You should take a side in the debate and defend your position.

The essay should start with an introduction, where you motivate the topic, briefly explain the debate, and present your argument.

The main portion of the essay should provide an overview of the literature on the topic, the main arguments that have been made, and the evidence that has been offered in support of those arguments. In your analysis, present your own critical evaluation of the arguments and the evidence.

The literature overview does not need to be comprehensive. Focus on the works that you think are most important. This means that before you start writing, you will need to critically read the literature to identify the works you will discuss.

List of topics:

- 1) Do any theoretical approaches in criminology enable us to understand how race and gender interact to produce patterns of crime?
- 2) Critically evaluate the arguments for and against punishing parents for the crimes of their children.
- 3) Do prisons work?
- 4) Provide a defense of plea-based sentence reductions and then offer a principled critique of such discounts.

5) Should punishment be modified to take account of the needs of children of women in prison?

6) What is the promise and what are the pitfalls of constitutional regulation of the death penalty in the US?

7) Why has police reform often proved so difficult to achieve?

8) Examine the claim that security for some often comes at the expense of the security of others. How best might this be avoided?

9) 'It is ...not in the least paradoxical that those societies that are in every respect the most civilised are none the less capable of unleashing the massive violence of world wars, nuclear attacks, and genocide...'

David Garland, *Punishment and Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990), p.223.
Do you agree?

Good luck! Do not wait until the last minute to start. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions at any stage of the brainstorming/writing process (make use of office hours!).