

Theoretical Essay – Midterm Assignment

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- **DUE Friday, October 16th, by 5:00 p.m. (EST) via the Assignments Folder in Blackboard.** Please upload your paper as a MS Word (or compatible) file.
- Worth 35 points, or 35% of your final course grade
- Will be evaluated using the rubric outlined below
- Late papers will not be accepted without valid and documented need. Except in cases of emergency, if your paper will be late you must arrange for an alternate due date before the October 16th deadline.

OVERVIEW:

This assignment requires you to analyze a case or topic of your choice.

You must use the theoretical perspectives of at least two of the theorists we have so far covered in this course. Each theorist must come from a different week in the course schedule.

You must also use at least two main concepts from each theorist you choose (for a total of at least four main concepts).

Using these perspectives and concepts, you must analyze of your case or topic.

DETAILED INTRUCTIONS and ASSESSMENT RUBRIC:

Criteria	Points
You must choose and clearly define one CASE or THEME around which to organize your paper/analysis. Your case of topic of focus can be a social situation, event, experience, theme, or some broadly relevant social issue or social problem. You may also analyze a work of art, literature, or film provided that you treat the artwork as a window into an event or social issue of relevance.	5
You must build an appropriate theoretical and conceptual framework and use concepts relevant to that framework. You must use and combine the perspectives of at least two theorists from the first half of this course, and use at last two concepts from each theorist. (2 points per central concept, 2 concepts for each of 2 theorists)	8
You will be graded on your ability to use the concepts effectively to interpret and analyze your case/topic . This means that you must use the tools we have learned in this class to <i>build a theoretical analysis</i> . What do the perspectives you chose allow us to see about your topic? How can you use them to explain something that is otherwise difficult to grasp? Feel free to be creative here and adapt the concepts to develop new arguments and/or suggest new avenues of research. Develop your own voice. This assignment comes with a great degree of intellectual flexibility. If you have questions, please ask.	14
Your paper and argument must be clear and well written.	4
You must clearly establish your contribution. What are you showing us about your case and why is it relevant?	4
TOTAL POINTS	35

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- The paper is expected to be **between 3 and 5 pages in length, double spaced, using a 12 point standard font** (such as Times New Roman, Calibri, or Cambria). You should use set **one inch margins**.

*These parameters should serve as a guide. I do not grade by number of pages, but rather the **quality** and **creativity** of the work.

- Please **INSERT PAGE NUMBERS**, or else I will be grumpy while reading your paper.
- Include a **separate title page** that includes an appropriate title along with your full name and course section number.
- Any time you use someone else's ideas (whether from an assigned or outside reading or webpage), you must indicate (with a properly formatted citation) where the ideas came from. Any time you use someone else's words, you must put quotation marks around those words and indicate the source of the quote with a properly formatted citation (including page number). You must also **provide a detailed bibliography**.

* Please use Chicago formatting style for in-text citations and reference listings. See https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Additional resources can be found here:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/resources/writing-tools-and-references>

If you have any questions, please ask.

Finally, try have fun with it!!