

Theoretical Essay – FINAL Paper Assignment

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- **DUE Monday, December 14th by 5:00 p.m. (EST) via the Assignments Folder in Blackboard.** Please upload your paper as a MS Word (or compatible) file.
- Worth 55 points, or 55% of your final course grade
- If you receive a higher score on your final paper compared to your midterm paper, your higher score will replace your midterm grade
- Papers 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 December 14th deadline.

OVERVIEW:

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

You must use the theoretical perspectives of at least three of the theorists we have covered in this course. Each theorist must come from a different week in the course schedule. Two may come from the first half of the semester. One must come from the second half of the semester. **NOTE:** You may refer to more than three theorists, but it is not required. You may also decide to use two theories from the second half of the semester and one from the first, but it is not required.

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

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

DETAILED INTRUCTIONS and ASSESSMENT RUBRIC (continued on p. 2):

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.	6
You must build an appropriate theoretical and conceptual framework and use concepts relevant to that framework. You must use and combine the perspectives of <u>at least three</u> of the theorists we have covered in this course. Each theorist must come from a different week in the course schedule. Two <u>may</u> come from the first half of the semester. One <u>must</u> come from the second half of the semester. You must also use at least two main concepts from each theorist you choose (for a total of at least six theoretical concepts). (2 points per central concept, 2 concepts for each of 3 theorists)	12

NOTE: You may refer to more than three theorists, but it is not required. You may also decide to use two theories from the second half of the semester and one from the first, but it is not required.	
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.	25
Your paper and argument must be clear and well written. You must have properly formatted citations and references. (See below)	6
You must clearly establish your contribution. What are you showing us about your case and why is it relevant?	6
TOTAL POINTS	55

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- The paper is expected to be **between 4 and 6 pages in length, double spaced, using a 12 point standard font** (such as Times New Roman, Calibri, or Cambria). You should 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 bibliography**.

* Please use a recognized scholarly formatting style for in-text citations and reference listings. For Chicago style, 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!!