

Final Paper Guidelines CJS-350 (Professor A. Timmer)

Overview of the Final Paper

Your final paper will include your critical analysis of an important social issue in society. You will need to provide an explanation for why the topic you picked is important; discuss what empirical research says about your issue; apply at least two theories to explain this social issue; and develop policy implications based on the theories you applied. Finally, you will create a short presentation based on your paper and share it with the class. The final paper should be approximately 8-10 pages.

Formatting: 12p font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, APA-style citations and reference list

Structure of the Final Paper

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TOPIC (1-2 pages)

Discuss your social issue and explain why people should care about it. Support your response by at least TWO different sources such as research articles, summaries, books, newspaper articles, blogs, twitter posts, Tik Tok videos and other sources showing the importance of your social issue in society. Make sure to discuss who gets affected by your social issue and the role of social inequality in understanding this social problem.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW (2-3 pages)

In this section, you will discuss what prior research said about your issue. You need to find at least THREE research articles on your topic of interest and summarize what they discussed. When possible, you should try to synthesize these articles. Please, note these articles should not be summary articles, but need to be based on some type of research (i.e., have methods section, findings, data etc.) and include a discussion of a theory. In this section, also note if you see any possible gaps or weaknesses in the prior literature. Did these articles do a good job testing and applying theories? Why or why not?

3. THEORY APPLICATION (2-3 pages)

You will need to pick at least TWO theories we covered in class and use the concepts and ideas of these theories to explain why your social issues is happening. You will need to make sure you cite properly the sources discussing these theories such as your textbook and research articles we covered in class. Please, make sure you are using the concepts developed by the theories to explain your social problem (e.g., if you choose to apply rational choice theory, you will be using such concepts perceptions of sanctions and rewards of crime etc.).

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS (1-2 pages)

You will need to provide possible solutions for your social issue based on the theories you applied. What are some policy recommendations to resolve your social issue? How can your recommendations help?

5. SUMMARY (1/2-1 page)

Provide a brief summary of what you discussed in your paper in a clear and concise way.