**SOCI 212 Religion and Society**

**Sociology Through the Lens – Photographs and Paper**:Sociology of religion is the scientific study of religion and nonreligion and the rituals and ceremonies that are associated with it. There are (non)religious symbols that we are exposed to in everyday life. There are material and nonmaterial forms of culture that are associated with (non)religion and observed daily. These symbols range from churches, crosses, prayer, and scripture that is written on human bodies in the form of tattoos.

The topics of religion and nonreligion that you are investigating from a sociological lens are of different sizes and scope throughout society. Religion may be understood from a micro-lens of everyday interactions that are had between members of society to the most macroscopic understanding of religion as superstructure that is imposed on human society.

Snap a series of photographs (it doesn’t have to be from a million-dollar camera – use the camera on your phone) or go to the archives to find a collection of photographs that symbolizes (non)religion. The next step is to conduct an in-depth analysis using course content from this course (and other sociology courses). This paper will be approximately 2 to 4 pages in length (not including the title page or references) and you will need a minimum of your course textbook to evaluate the (non)religion symbol that is occurring in the photographs you are using for this assignment. Please also double space and Times New Roman, size 12 font.

An essential feature of this assignment is for you to be able to apply course content in understanding religion in society. The point of this assignment is not to simply provide a summary (or profile) of the photographs you collected, but to use your sociological lens to understand and be critical of the complexities of those photographs. Your paper must include the following components: the symbolism that exists with the photographs you collected for this assignment, the meaning of this symbol, as well as the social solidarity and social order that is represented in these photographs. Please feel free to add any additional items that will enhance your paper and this assignment.

The **photographs** for this assignment will be **due in place of your midterm exam (INSERT DATE).**

The **paper portion** of this assignment will be **due in place of your final exam (INSERT DATE).**

**SOCI 217 Ethnic and Race Relations**

**Music and Lyrics in Ethnic and Race Relations Paper:** What songs best represent the way ethnicity and race are constructed and understood across place and time? We have discussed ethnicity and race related issues for several weeks in this course. It is now your time to select a song with meaningful lyrics that you feel best characterizes the way in which ethnicity and race are constructed and understood in America.

This is not simply an opinion piece. You should apply the sociological frameworks you have learned about in this course. You may write in the first person to express your reasoning about your choice of song and to share your own beliefs and attitudes where appropriate. The assignment should include a brief summary of the song that describes the “W5’s” (listed below) and a comprehensive answer to the question “what song best defines the way in which ethnicity and race are constructed and understood in America?” You must make your song a convincing choice by explaining “Why”? (*hint: you might use the music charts to identify what songs are most popular in the United States of America - in particular genres and across genres*). Make sure to define ethnicity and race clearly. Your analysis should be based on the following criteria:

**THE W5’S TO REMEMBER + COPY OF LYRICS**

1. What ethnicity and race related issues matter most to people in America? (e.g., the environment, religion, family, friends, money and success, sex, love and acceptance)
2. What values related to ethnicity and race can you determine from this song? (e.g., the pursuit of fame and fortune or finding equality for all)
3. What customs are evident? (e.g., leisure activities, cultural activities)
4. Are there any race or ethnic based expectations? (e.g., roles that are played by Black/African Americans, whites, Hispanic, Asian, Natives)
5. What are the social norms and mores? (e.g., what are the attitudes towards sex, drugs, religion, race, class, community, family, etc.)
6. A copy of the song lyrics.
7. Other items important to think about as your read the lyrics are important words or phrases that are difficult or important, what the song is about (e.g., love, friendship, loneliness, a special experience, fashion, current events), who the people are in the song and words used to describe them (e.g., I, you, we, baby, darling, etc.), the situation described in the song, what happens in the song, how people in the song deal with the situation, and how much control the people in the song have over their lives and world, as well as what is possible for the people in the song.

**DETAILS OF THE ASSIGNMENT**: The assignment should be 2 to 4 pages in length, double spaced, Times New Roman, and Font size 12. Please feel free to add anything that you think will enhance the assignment. This assignment will be due in place of your final exam (on Monday of Week 8).

**Rubric:  Race and Ethnicity in Music**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Categories** | **Level 4** | **Level 3** | **Level 2** | **Level 1** |
| **Knowledge/Understanding** Selects a song with meaningful lyrics that you feel best characterizes race and ethnicity as it is framed in America. Uses W5 questions to summarize the song | Selects a song that clearly defines the issues, values, customs and social norms of race and ethnicity in America Demonstrates thoroughly understanding of the song by summarizing all of the W5s | Selects a song that generally defines the issues, values, customs and social norms of race and ethnicity in America Demonstrates considerable understanding of the song by summarizing most of the W5s | Selects a song that somewhat defines the issues, values, customs and social norms race and ethnicity in America Demonstrates some understanding of the song by summarizing most of the W5s | Selects a song that does not define the issues, values, customs and social norms of race and ethnicity in America Demonstrates limited understanding of the song by summarizing some of the W5s |
| **Thinking**Applies criteria questions to determine the issues, values, customs, gender expectation, social norms and mores evident in the song lyrics. | Applies criteria critically and creatively with a high degree of effectiveness | Applies criteria critically and creatively with a considerable effectiveness | Applies criteria critically and creatively with some effectiveness | Applies criteria critically and creatively with limited effectiveness |
| **Communication**Organizes ideas, language, grammar, spelling to answer the question “What song best defines race and ethnicity in America?” Uses first person to share own ideas and beliefs where appropriate | Uses organizational, language, grammar and spelling skills to clearly answer the question “What song best defines race and ethnicity in America?”   | Uses organizational, language, grammar and spelling skills to generally answer the question “What song best defines race and ethnicity in America?”  | Uses organizational, language, grammar and spelling skills to somewhat answer the question “What song best defines race and ethnicity in America?”  | Uses organizational, language, grammar and spelling skills with limited effectiveness to answer the question “What song best defines race and ethnicity in America?”  |
| **Application** Makes clear connections between the lyrics of the song and the life of young people by extending thinking to include **why**this song best represents the worldview of race and ethnicity in America.   | Uses sociological theories with a high degree of effectiveness to explain why the song best represents the worldview of race and ethnicity in America. | Uses sociological theories with a considerable effectiveness to explain why the song best represents the worldview of race and ethnicity in America.  | Uses anthropological, sociological and psychological theories with some effectiveness to explain why the song best represents the worldview of race and ethnicity in America. | Uses anthropological, sociological and psychological theories with limited effectiveness to explain why the song best represents the worldview of race and ethnicity in America. |

**Comments**Knowledge and Understanding

Thinking

Communication

Application

Overall

**Music and Lyrics in Race and Ethnicity Write Your Own Song Lyrics:** This assignment is to be completed and submitted on Monday of Week 4. You will work on your own to write the lyrics of a song on a theme related to race and ethnicity in society.

The minimum requirement for the song is to write two verses and a chorus in any arrangement you wish. For example. ABAB. Please consult the peer-reviewed sociological literature to help in framing the ethnic and race-based issue you are writing a song about. The lyrics you are writing can be from any genre of music. You might find it helpful to consult a rhyming dictionary – there are several online. Feel free to use words and phrases from songs that you know, including the song you plan on analyzing for this course (*note: do not copy from the songs or you will receive a 0 for the assignment and I will report you to the academic dean and the artist’s recording company and you may be expulsed from William Penn University for plagiarism and face a lawsuit for copyright infringement.)*. Your experience or the experience of everyday life are good sources for song material. Everyday expressions and clichés are also useful, especially for making a title and chorus.

**SOCI 219 Sex and Gender in Society**

**Weekly Podcast Reviews:** This assignment requires students to listen to a podcast episode each week that relates to assigned readings for the week. Students may select an episode from New Books in Sociology (<https://newbooksnetwork.com/category/sociology/>), New Books in Gender Studies (<https://newbooksnetwork.com/category/gender-studies/>), The Social Breakdown (<https://www.thesocialbreakdown.com/>), The Annex Sociology Podcast (<http://sociocast.org/annex/>), or Untenured Tracks (<https://untenuredtracks.podbean.com/>).

The weekly reviews will be approximately two-pages in length (not including title page or references). An essential feature of a good audio review is the reviewer’s ability to write concisely so that a comprehensive evaluation of the podcast episode can be obtained from a brief reading of your writing. So, do not write more, write more concisely – find creative ways to connect material from the course to your critical evaluation of the podcast episode in a short review.

The point of a review is not to summarize what you listened to, but to identify the merit of the episode and to critically evaluate what was said by the podcast host and their guest by using peer-reviewed content (i.e., journal articles or your course textbook) to support your argument. Hence, the bulk of the body of one’s review essay will be a summary of what you listened to (as it pertains to the assigned readings for the week) and a critical evaluation of the podcast episode.

Among the features of a strong review are:

* A discussion of the main contentions discussed in the podcast episode
* An explanation of the sources the podcast host (or guest) utilized in their discussion
* An assessment of the strong point or shortcomings of the podcast episode
* How does the podcast episode you listened to change the way one should think about the topic of discussion?

Finally, you will want to make references to specific portions of the interview (use timestamps) to illustrate your evaluation. The challenge will be to do as much of this as possible and yet not let it interfere with the restricted length of the essay. In other words, find creative ways to give examples from the interview, use scholarly sources to support your stance, and do so in a limited amount of space. Obviously, quotations should be kept to a minimum, and should rarely exceed one sentence.

**Deadline: Weekly Podcast Reviews are due Monday prior to class each week.**

**SOCI 220 Social Organization**

**Social Organization Through a Lens – Photographs and Paper:** A social organization is a pattern of relationships between and among individuals, groups, and institutions. Social organizations happen in everyday life. Many people belong to multiple social structures—institutionalized (formal) and informal. These include clubs, medical institutions, scientific institutions, institutions of higher learning, K-12 compulsory education, religious institutions, and so on. These social organizations provide individuals with a sense of identity and being close to one another helps provide a sense of community. These organizations link many like-minded people (also known as insiders) and causes a separation of others (also known as outsiders) who are not part of their organization due to a variety of real or perceived differences in beliefs, thoughts, and values.

Social organizations occur in different sizes and forms throughout society. Smaller-scale organizations include many everyday groups like bands, clubs, and sports teams. All small-scale organizations contain the same characteristics as a large-scale organization and even with fewer people they still interact and function in the same way as a large-scale organization.

Large-scale organizations have some extent of bureaucracy that includes a set of rules, specializations, and a hierarchical system. This allows for large-scale organizations to maximize efficiency and provide managerial control over workers. Typically, the impersonal authority approach is used. This is when the position of power is detached and impersonal with the other members of the organization. This is done to assure things run smoothly and quality is maintained.

Snap a series of photographs (it doesn’t have to be from a million-dollar camera – use the camera on your phone) or go to the archives to find a collection of photographs that relate to formal or informal social organization. You will use these photographs to conduct an in-depth analysis of what is occurring these photographs and will apply course content in their interpretation of the photographs. This paper will be approximately 2 to 4 pages in length (not including the title page or references) and you will need a minimum of your course textbook to evaluate what is occurring in the photographs. Please also double space and Times New Roman, size 12 font.

An essential feature of this assignment is for you to be able to apply course content in understanding the inner workings of this social organization. The point of this assignment is not to simply provide a summary (or profile) of the photographs you snapped or collected from the archives, but to use your sociological lens to understand and be critical of the complexities that exist in the photographs. Your paper must include the following components: size of the organization you photographed (small or large), the rules that exist for the organization you photographed (whether they are formal or informal), the different parts of the organizations, and the hierarchy of the organization (if one exists). Please feel free to add any additional items that will enhance your content analysis and your overall paper.

The **photographs** for this assignment will be **due in place of your midterm exam (INSERT DATE).**

The **paper portion** of this assignment will be **due in place of your final exam (INSERT DATE).**

**SOCI 311 Marriage and Family**

**Literature Review:** A literature review is a descriptive summary of research on a topic that has previously been studied. The purpose of a literature review is to inform readers of the significant knowledge and ideas that have been established on a topic. Its purpose is to compare, contrast and/or connect findings that were identified when reviewing researchers' work. Oftentimes, literature reviews are written to ground a study in a particular context of what is known about a subject in order to establish a foundation for the topic (or question) being researched.

The purpose of this assignment is to facilitate your abilities to research a topic of study so you can learn to (1) identify and formulate an inquiry question that defines what you'd like to learn, (2) apply your knowledge on reading research that you've learned in class, (3) analyze information found in academic journal articles, and (4) synthesize new knowledge into a written small-scale literature review.

Assignment Description: For this assignment you are asked to complete a small-scale literature review on a topic of your choice as long as it pertains to marriage and family. You are asked to locate at 10 academic journal articles on your topic and write a 4-to-5-page literature review on the articles you’ve selected.

Steps to complete your small-scale literature review:

1. Choose a topic related to marriage and family that you are interested in studying.
2. Formulate an inquiry question that specifically describes what you would like to know about your educational topic.
3. Go to the library (online or on-ground) to search for and locate journals that include your topic's information.
4. Find articles, read the abstracts and skim the articles to determine if they correspond well to your topic AND inquiry question.
5. Select at 10 journal articles and photocopy (or print) them for your project.
6. Read your articles and begin to sort and classify them *according to their findings*.
7. Organize your articles by sorting and classifying their findings in a meaningful way, always considering your original topic and inquiry question.
8. Write an outline for your small-scale literature review.
9. Write your review