SOC 331 Research Paper

Students will complete a research paper of a minimum of 8 pages (including title and reference pages) on global social change. The paper is worth 35% of the final grade. They may choose between the following 2 options:

1) **Pick a country from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, or Asia, and study its development process.** Your paper should address the main themes covered in the textbook: role of colonization/path to independence/nation formation; early development policies; impact of neoliberalism and globalization on the economy and society; current development issues (conflict, crisis, sustainability, etc.). The paper should include a short history, geographic information, and relevant statistics on the economy, population, and social issues.

2) **Pick an international organization or social movement that tries to have an impact on global social change.** Describe this organization/movement, its activities, and its impact. Explain how you may get personally involved in working with them. Examples of international organizations include Amnesty International, Green Peace, the UNICEF, etc. Examples of international movements include the labor movement, the World Social Forum, the feminist movement, etc.

For either option, students are required to refer to the materials they have learned in class, linking their topic to theories and facts or processes described in the textbook and, if appropriate, supplemental readings. Sociology majors should format their paper using ASA format. Students in other majors may use the format they are most comfortable with. Information on formatting styles is available under Resources in the course menu.

Completing the paper will involve the following steps:

1. **Submission of a topic idea.** In Module 1, students will state which option they have chosen, and based on this, which country or organization/social movement. In a short paragraph, they will explain why they chose it. They will submit this assignment in the Assignment box. It is worth 3% of their final grade.

2. **List of references.** In Module 3, students will submit a list of the sources they are planning to use in their paper. The list should be a combination of academic and non-academic sources, and be adequate to build an 8-page paper. Students are encouraged to contact the course Resource Librarian and familiarize themselves with the Cannon Memorial Library resources, which should be their primary resource for this assignment. *Wikipedia and other online general encyclopedias are NOT acceptable sources for this assignment.*
   The reference list should be formatted in a standard formatting style, such as APA or MLA. Sociology majors are required to use the ASA reference style. Guides to use ASA and APA formats are available in the Resources section of the course. You may also consult the Sociology LibGuide for instructions on how to use ASA style. Grading will be based equally on the formatting and the relevance and number of the sources. The list is worth 7% of the final grade.

3. **Outline of the research paper.** In Module 5, students will submit an outline of their paper. This is an opportunity to start organizing thoughts and ideas. Students should ask themselves the following questions to build their outline:
   - What information have I gathered (meaning, students should have read all your sources by now)?
• What is the point I want to make?
• How does this relate to what I have learned in the course?

The description of each paper option includes a description of the main points to cover, which should serve as the rough outline to guide student’s organization of their paper. An outline should include a list of the main sections the paper will include, and a brief summary of the main points within each section, along with the sources that will be used in each section. A sample outline is provided in DocSharing. The outline is worth 5% of the final grade.

4. **Final paper.** Students will submit their complete paper in Module 7. It is worth 20% of the final grade. The paper should be 8-page long, including a title page and a reference page (meaning, 6 pages of text). The paper should be double-spaced and use a 12-size font, such as Times New Roman. It will be sent automatically to Turnitin.com for a similarity analysis. Standard plagiarism rules will be applied.

   The grading for this project will be as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper topic</th>
<th>3%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper sources</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35% of the final grade</strong></td>
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