

Introduction to Sociology SSS100.1857

Professor Lynne Turner

Final Project

Note that there are multiple components to this assignment with varying deadlines as listed below.

The final project essay is due by email to the professor at lturner@gradcenter.cuny.edu no later than 11:59pm on Thursday, December 12, 2019. Extensions will be granted only for an emergency and for no later than Saturday, December 14.

Your final project explores a social problem covered in class and how a movement addresses this problem – labor/inequality, racial justice, migration or gender justice. Choose one focus area from the list provided by the instructor below for your project research. Your research is to be based upon course readings, class activities, discussion and prior assignments in addition to at least one independent reading and at least one multi-media source beyond the organization’s website. *The final project is worth 45% of your grade in total.*

Focus areas for your project research (organization names are in parentheses):

Labor/inequality – either Fight for 15/living wage campaigns *OR* Teachers strikes

Racial Justice – either Black Lives Matter *OR* Affordable housing and anti-gentrification (New York Communities for Change, etc) *OR* Racial equity in schools (Alliance for Quality Schools, etc) *OR* Mass Incarceration

Migration – either General immigrant and refugee advocacy (New York Immigration Coalition, New Sanctuary Movement, Make the Road NY) *OR* Dream Act (Dreamers)

Gender Justice – either #MeToo movement *OR* Women running for elected office *OR* Reproductive Rights

You may propose other topics subject to my approval.

Final Project Components include:

- 1. Topic Statement** – A one paragraph topic statement that identifies your chosen social movement focus area, states your primary questions and how you will conduct your project research is due by class time on Thursday, November 7. *The topic statement is worth 5% of your overall course grade and will be graded for completion.* If it is not handed in or handed in late it will negatively affect your final project grade.
- 2. Class Presentation** – You will present to class about your research on either Tuesday, December 3, Thursday, December 5 or Tuesday, December 10. Total time for each presentation is *six minutes* – this includes four minutes of presentation and two minutes for questions. Feel free to be creative! Use power point or video clips, engage students in an activity, or anything else you think will make for an engaging presentation. A sign-up sheet for the presentations will be passed around at least two weeks in advance. *The class presentation is worth 15% of your overall course grade and will be graded for quality.* For your presentation you will want to consider:
 - What is your topic (movement/organization)/ provide brief background information

- What did you most want to understand?
 - What did you find out that was most interesting about your issue and movement?
 - What did you find out about your issue and movement that you think is most important for us to know?
 - What are your questions, suggestions or critique?
3. **Final Project Essay** – A three page, double spaced essay summarizing what you learned and providing your critical perspective is due on Thursday, December 12. Your essay must include at least two substantive citations from course readings (not from the same source), at least one substantive citation from an independent reading, at least one citation from the multimedia source that you identify, links to the multimedia sources and an overall bibliography of sources. Remember that this is a final essay which will be graded for both content and writing quality. Review and edit your essay before sending it in. The LaGuardia Writing Center is a helpful resource - do take advantage of it! *The final project essay is worth 25% of your overall course grade and will be graded for quality.*

Important note on sources:

- *Your independent reading must be from an academic (scholarly) source or be a substantive article from a journalistic source.* Academic (scholarly) sources include peer-reviewed journal articles, books, book chapters and published expert reports. A good example of a substantive journalistic article is “The Long-lasting Legacy of the Great Migration” by Isabel Wilkerson assigned in Week 6 of the course syllabus. Send me an email or speak with me if you have questions about your independent scholarly source reading.
- Helpful links for finding scholarly sources:
 - Purdue OWL finding key words worksheets -
http://guides.lib.purdue.edu/ld.php?content_id=14409499 and
<http://guides.lib.purdue.edu/c.php?g=352855&p=2378012>
 - LaGuardia Library On-Line Databases - <https://library.laguardia.edu>
 - OneSearch - <https://library.laguardia.edu/2018/07/10/what-is-onesearch/>
 - Academic Search Complete -
<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.rpa.laguardia.edu:2048/ehost/search/basic?vid=0&sid=12261727-70a9-434d-953d-ea7f0b5f69b4%40sessionmgr4007>
 - Social Science sources including SocINDEX with Full Text and JSTOR can be found here - <https://library.laguardia.edu/research/articles/subjects/social-sciences/>
 - You can also use CQ Researcher for background information – look at bibliography for potential sources.
 - Video tutorials and handouts -
<https://library.laguardia.edu/help/videosandhandouts/>

- Your *multi-media source* should be in addition to looking over the organizational website (which you should definitely also do.) Examples of multimedia sources are videos, audio recordings, social media, images, etc.

Questions to guide your project research:

- What is the main social problem or issue that you are addressing? What is the principal question that you have about this issue?
- What are the main goals of your movement? What issues are being addressed? What changes does the movement want to bring about?
- Who belongs to this movement or organization?
- What measures or actions have been taken by your movement to achieve its goals?
- How successful has your movement or organization been in achieving its goals? What has your movement or organization accomplished?
- Add one or two additional questions you have about your movement

Essay Structure

- Introduction – provide basic information about your movement and the social problem that your movement is addressing, the central question or questions that guided your research and overview what follows.
- Body – what did you learn about your movement/question (see guiding questions)
- Conclusion – summarize and provide your own critical perspective about what you learned and the significance of your movement. You may also include questions you consider important for future exploration.
- Citations: In-text citation and a Works Cited page at the end
 - In-text citation – include the author's last name, year of publication and page number, for example: (Field, 2005, p. 14). For sources such as websites and e-books that have no page numbers, use a paragraph number.
 - Works Cited page (or bibliography) – use the MLA citation format from Library media resources center - <https://guides.laguardia.edu/c.php?g=143229&p=936523>

Other Important Guidelines

- Use Normal layout, 12 point font, double spaced, 3 pages
- Send as an attached Word document. Do not share your google doc.
- Your heading on the first page of your essay should include your name, Sociology 100.1958 – final project essay, the date
- Give your essay a title!
- Save the document as: YourFirstName YourLastName – Final Essay
- Name your email subject header: YourFirstName YourLastName – Final Essay
- Insert page numbers

4. **Opportunities for Extra Credit:**

- **Visit the Writing Center** and give me their note verifying your visit and you receive *two extra points towards your final grade*.
- **Supplement your final project with field research:** Receive *three points extra credit on your final project grade* if you build in a hands-on field research such as attending a meeting, rally or other event pertinent to your social movement. To receive the extra credit you must document your presence and report back on your experience.
- **Supplement your final project with an interview directly related to your subject matter (not the same interview as your Short Essay #2)** and receive *three points extra credit towards your final project grade*. To receive extra credit, send the interview file. The interview should be in addition to other required sources.

5. **Academic Integrity:** Do Not Plagiarize! I will know that you have done it. LaGuardia's Academic Integrity Policy is found at https://library.laguardia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/academicintegritypolicy_LibraryVersion.pdf. Plagiarism is turning in work that is not your own, whether in part or full. Students that submit plagiarized work or commit other acts of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade and may face more serious penalties. LaGuardia's Library Media Resources Center provides helpful online guides to what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. Please look them over.

- A review to what constitutes plagiarism and what to cite can be found here
- <https://guides.laguardia.edu/c.php?g=143229&p=936407>
- Watch this useful video on how to paraphrase and avoid plagiarism
- <https://guides.laguardia.edu/plagiarism/avoidplagiarism>