

## **Introduction to Sociology SSS100.1947**

**Professor Lynne Turner**

### **Midterm Essay**

***This assignment is due by email to the professor at lturner@gradcenter.cuny.edu as an attached Word Document no later than Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.***

The Midterm Essay is a 450 word essay about Inequality OR Work OR Workers Movements OR the Racial Wage. The essay will be based upon either an interview you conduct of somebody that you know OR reflection upon your own experience. Your essay will also connect what you learn from the interview or your own reflections to course readings.

The essay must include **at least one quote** which you cite from ONE of these foundational readings:

- Karl Marx, Manifesto of Class Struggle
- Karl Marx, Estranged Labour
- W.E.B. Dubois, Black Reconstruction and the Racial Wage

The essay must also include **at least one quote** which you cite from another class reading about the present day social problem that you choose.

### **Questions to Consider (you do not have to answer all questions):**

1. How have you or the person you interview experienced:
  - Inequality in your lifeOR
  - Injustice or inequality at workOR
  - Racial injustice
2. Specifically what happened?
3. What measures did you or the person you interview take to address this issue?
4. Have you or they ever joined together with others or been part of organizations or movements to change the situation? What happened?
5. How does your or your interviewee's experience relate to class readings?
6. How does your or your interviewee's experience relate to what is taking place during the Coronavirus pandemic?
7. What is one measure workers, organizations or policy makers can take to improve the situation?

### **Sample Essay Structure:**

- Introduction, including your primary question or questions.
- Significant content from your interview or reflection of your experience. If you base your essay on an interview, use both quotes and paraphrase to convey the message your interviewee conveyed include 2 direct quotes from your interviewee of approximately 25 words each.
- Paragraph tying what you learned from your interview or reflection back to course content. This includes one quote from foundational course readings and one quote from an article about the present day. See instructions above.
- Concluding paragraph - Summarize what you learned and close with 1-2 sentences providing your perspective about its significance.

**Citations:** Use In-text citations. This means including the author's last name, year of publication and page number at the end of the paragraph or quotation that you are citing. For example: (Field, 2005, p. 14). For sources such as websites and e-books that have no page numbers, use a paragraph number.

**Layout:** Use Normal layout, 12 point font, Double-spaced.

***The midterm essay will be assigned a letter grade for quality and is worth 25% of your overall course grade.*** The grade will be based principally on essay content and secondarily on quality of writing. You are encouraged to utilize the LaGuardia Writing Center as a resource. Have them notify me to receive 2 points extra credit.