

Instructions for Final Paper (Waddell, rev. 11/09/2011)

The paper can be on any topic related to the course that you choose with written approval and/or in consultation with the instructor. As the semester progresses each of you should begin to identify a topic or issue to explore in a paper of 6-8 pages in length (not including the bibliography) with a minimum of six (6) scholarly books or articles (from refereed journals and library databases, but *not* from un-referenced sources on the Internet). The primary requirement is that you apply sociological ideas, concepts or theories to your research topic. Essentially, your essay should: (1) introduce an issue, (2) make an argument, (3) provide a theoretical analysis and (4) conclude. (The majority of your grade is based on these four aspects.) You should also include a bibliography at the end.

This paper is your creation, so topics not discussed or covered in the course may be appropriate. Read the handouts; review your class notes, the course syllabus, and the information provided on the course website for ideas. Finding a topic related to your major or your career interests is always a good idea. Please provide potential resources to support your idea, and use the proper citation methods outlined in my handout "A Quick Guide on References and Citations" as good practice. (You may use other citation formats but be sure to follow a formal citation method.) It should go without saying but papers should be proof read before being turned in. If it is difficult for me to understand your writing you will be marked down accordingly. **The final paper is due in class the last day of the course (12/09/2011).** Literature used to develop the paper should be drawn from professional, research and popular academic sources, but not exclusively from required class texts. Please see me if at any time if you have difficulty pinning down a topic.