DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH PAPER

1. Select an issue in any area of sociology that you are interested in doing sociological research. You can choose your topic from issues discussed in class, from the textbook, or from the readings assigned on the syllabus and Blackboard.

2. Find a total of three articles: two articles from the popular press (newspapers, magazines, web articles) and one article from a social science journal (i.e. The American Sociological Review, The Journal of Family Issues, etc). These articles cannot be ones that were assigned on the syllabus or Blackboard.

3. Write a brief review of each of the three articles.

4. Select one of the sociological perspectives: Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Symbolic Interactionism. Interpret the issue from this perspective. Your interpretation should reflect what you have learned from the readings. Be specific in your interpretation about what you learned from each reading. Also, be specific about which sociological perspective you are using in your paper (e.g., "I will use the Symbolic Interactionist perspective to explain…..").

5. You do not need to attach copies of your three articles to your papers. Be certain, however, to provide full citations to them (See CITATION below).

6. The papers must be between 3 and 5 pages in length.

WRITING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESEARCH PAPER:
Please follow these instructions carefully. Failure to do so will result in points being deducted from your written assignment.

Format

- The paper should be between 3 and 5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced.
- The paper should have a cover page with your name, the title of your paper, the date, and the name of the course.
- The paper should have 1" margins all around.
- The type font should be Times New Roman, size 12.
- All text other than references should be double-spaced; type references in single space.
- All pages except the cover page should be numbered (center, bottom).
- The references should be listed on a separate page from the text. These can be listed on Page #6.

ORGANIZATION

- Begin with an introductory paragraph that describes the issue facing marriage and the family and why it is important.

  Example: Divorce has a major impact on marriage and the family because …

- Summarize the information of each article in a paragraph.
Example: Kate Hohl found in her study of divorce that …
Example: Divorce rates are likely to rise, reports The New York Times …

- Use 2-3 paragraphs to interpret the social problem from a sociological perspective.

  Example: I will use the Conflict Theory perspective to examine the effect of divorce…

- End with a concluding paragraph that summarizes what you wrote.

  Example: Although divorce is a problem faced by many Americans, research indicates that we can address the problems of increasingly fragmented families…

- Please provide a cover page that has your name, the date, and the title of your paper (ex. “The Effects of Divorce on the American Family”)

**QUOTATIONS**
Direct quotations should be placed in quotation marks; indent lengthy quotations.

**CITATIONS**
**NOTE:** Written work for this course must use the ASA (American Sociological Association) citation style:

1. The first line of each citation begins flush left. The second and subsequent lines are indented three spaces. This is called a “hanging indent”.
2. The list should be arranged alphabetically by the author’s last name. Include the first name and last names for all authors. Only use initials if the author used initials in the original publication. Add a space between the initials such as M. K. F. Fisher. If the source does not have an author, alphabetization is by the first word in the title.
3. Invert the author’s name. If there are two or more authors invert only the first author’s name.
4. Arrange multiple items by the same author in order by year of publication, oldest date first.

**BOOKS**

- *Book titles are italicized.*
- Include both the city and state for the place of publication, excepting New York City. Use the U. S. Postal Code abbreviation for states (e.g., WI; IL; Washington, DC)

**One author**

Two or more authors


No authors


Edited books


Articles from collected works


PERIODICAL ARTICLES

· *Titles of periodicals are italicized*. Titles of articles are in quotation marks.
· All important words in article title are capitalized.
· Use the issue number or exact date for journals that do not number pages consecutively within a volume.

One or more authors


Articles from journals that paginate each issue separately

Articles from Magazines and Newspapers


WEB SITES AND E-JOURNALS

- Date of retrieval is included.
- Internet address is enclosed in parentheses. Periods are put outside of the parentheses.
- Follow the format and include the same information for books and articles.
- ASA does not provide an example for articles from commercial databases. These examples are adapted from the American Psychological Association Publication Manual.

Information Posted on Web Pages, etc.


Multiple authors

- If there are three authors, cite all three last names in the first citation. Afterwards, use "et al." If a work has more than three authors, use "et al." in all citations.

First citation: (Hohl, Smith, and Jones 2011).
Later: …(Hohl et al. 2011)

Quotations in the text

Quotations taken directly from text must begin and end with quotation marks. The author, date and / or page numbers follow the end quote and precede the period.

...The debate included "questions relating to the unemployment of ethnic minorities to be asked of contractors but only a small number of local authorities are using this limited provision" (Commission for Racial Equality, 1992: 30).

...Thrasher (1999) referred to the "spontaneous effort of boys to create a society for themselves" (p.147).
Multiple reference

Authors may be listed alphabetically or by year.
... (Jones 1999; Smith 2000; Jacobi and Rumery 2001).

For additional examples of parenthetical references, see the American Sociological Association Style Guide.

Some Examples of Proper Citations

Direct Quote: “Written work for this course must use ASA citation style” (Hohl 2011: 7).

Paraphrase (with author as part of your writing): Hohl (2011) explains that one should use ASA citation style in their written work for Introduction to Sociology.

Paraphrase (with no author citing within your writing): One should use ASA citation style in their written work for Social Problems (Hohl 2011).

BIBLIOGRAPHY
You must also include a bibliography in which you cite any author’s work.

For Books:
   Boston, MA: Pearson.

For Articles from Edited Volumes:

SUBMISSIONS
Please submit your written assignment as either a paper copy in the beginning of class the day the paper is due or by email to kh17@sunywcc.edu. The papers should be in Microsoft Word format for the IBM-compatible computer (PC).
Late submissions or papers not submitted in the proper format will be penalized according to the time overdue. Expect to lose a point for every day that the assignment is late or not in the correct format.

Paper Submission
Submit a paper copy of your assignment by giving it to Professor Hohl at the beginning of the class on the due date or via email at kh17@sunywcc.edu.

Electronic Submission
Submit your paper to Professor Hohl in Microsoft Word format for the IBM-compatible computer (PC) by the beginning of the class on the due date. The file name for the electronic submission should be in this form: YourLastName.Assignment. For example: Hohl.ResearchPaper.