

Sociology 10: Issues and Problems in American Society
Summer Session II, 2016
Instructor: Claudia Maria Lopez
Google Site Resource Project

The summer session course will engage in a group project for building a resource website through Google Sites. In groups of 2-3 people, you will choose one issue discussed in class. The topics already chosen: Education (Andrianna, Lindsey, Tylure); Immigration (Sara A., Edel, John); Healthcare (Crystal, Jocelyne); Economy (Alexander, Adam); and Mass Incarceration (Sara S., Savannah, Abby). The project is comprised of three parts: (1) Building a Google Site; (2) 3-5 page paper; and (3) Group presentation and handout.

Purpose: The aim of this project is to work together to think through ideas, issues, and solutions to problems in the United States. I want you to not only understand the structural issues at play but also how social forces affect individuals and different groups of people in the United States. Working in collaboration is key because it is through a collective process of discussion and critical examination can we work jointly to understand other's experiences and standpoints that may be different from our own. In addition, learning to build a website is a key skill that is important for us, in the current era, to learn to express and share ideas and information for personal, academic and professional purposes.

Project outcomes:

1. Be familiar with a major social problems in the United States.
2. Be able to think critically about major social problem and possible solutions.
3. Apply an intersectional analysis to the issues and problems discussed.
4. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of interventions aimed at solving social problems.
5. Work in collaboration with classmates to think through social problems and how others have responded and organized in the local community around said problems.
6. Learn how to build a Google Site as a community resource technology.

Google Resource Site: One site per group but everyone needs to work on it for full credit. Focus on a social problem discussed in the class (look over the syllabus and read ahead).

Answer the following questions:

*How is the issue a social problem? How did it become a social problem? What is its historical background in the United States? Who are the players? Who is affected? What factors need to be considered to understand what is going on?

*What are the current laws/policies concerning your issue? What is your evaluation of these laws/policies?

*Discuss the structural inequalities (personal and social). Include how people have exercised agency in spite of having to deal with the social problem. What group or groups in the Bay Area have tried to address these issues? Who are they? What is their mission? What project/s have

they worked on? What is your critical analysis of their work? What have been their successes? What might you do differently, or to expand on their work?

*What other resources are available for people in the Bay Area-Santa Cruz areas that are dealing with your particular issue/problem?

Must include:

- chose a US social issue
- what social problems have arisen from this social issue
- how did it become a problem? (history in US)
- what populations have been directly affected
- chose at least 1 organization in the Bay Area that addresses this issue
- what is your evaluation of organization
- create a link on the website where you list resources for people who are affected by this issue
- Use visuals: Links; videos; maps
- Government statistics or statistics and data from a peer-reviewed sociological source
- Make sure to include a tab for work cited! MLA or ASA writing format
- Reflection and argument for why readers should care or pay attention to your issue
- Intersectional analysis
- each section must have substantial written information, for example, a small section should have at least 300-500 words.

To receive an A: You must answer all questions posed and address all the requirements in prompt; must also include visuals, like pictures or video that are relevant and illustrate your arguments; must offer an interesting argument and thoughtful reflection; all parts of assignment must be turned in on time; little to no grammatical or spelling errors; demonstrate an excellent grasp of material and critical analysis of issue being discussed; website must be organized and be easy to navigate and show thought and time has gone into the construction of the site.

Reflection paper: to be submitted by each member of the group. This will be a 3-5 page paper, double spaced, 12 point Times Font, that will explain what you did for the google sites project, your reflection, and evaluation of team members.

*Google sites process: What was your topic, how did you work through thinking about your topic? What were the goals and what approach you used to think through your issue while building of the website.

*Reflection: Thinking about two frameworks we used in the course, 1) the sociological imagination, and 2) intersectionality, how did you use these frames to think through the project? Use at least 4 readings from the course, and however many other materials (in the course or outside material) in your paper and how these readings helped you think more deeply about the topic. End by offering a personal reflection on this class and how you might look at your topic differently. Define all terms and concepts and give examples. Include work cited page.

*Evaluation of project: What are your thoughts on the final project? How was the collaborative process with your team member? Was the work divided fairly? Did you have any issues or

problems with other team members? Please write a sentence on each team member's performance.

Group Presentation: Presentations will be done on the last day of class, August 25th. The presentation will be no more than 10 minutes long. **Every member must participate.**

Everyone will receive the same grade. You must present the work you did for the google site and you will create a resource handout to give to your fellow classmates that outlines the issue and problem and what recourse are available for people in the Bay area.

*Presentation: Present the google site you built, explain reasoning for the issue and why important, and the organization highlighted. Be prepared to answer questions about your topic.

*Handout: must include at least 5-10 orgs/agencies, links as resources for people who are seeking help with the issue you are presenting on. Make a copy for each person in the class.

Points Breakdown: 40 points total

Week 2: Tuesday

Groups turn in project topic. Please list other group members, topic, and any theme, problem and approaches--1 point

Week 2: Thursday

The group must schedule a meeting with me during office hours this week to let me know your topics, organization/s, resources, website design, how work is being divided

(2 points)--Thursday or next Tuesday

Week 3: Tuesday

Turn in 1st drafts of web content: write out everything, even if it is just bullet points

What organization/s and sources will you be using? Why did you choose these?--2 points

Week 3: Thursday

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Week 4: Tuesday

Turn in 2nd draft of web content (taking into account from edits)--2 points

Week 4: Thursday

3-5 page paper due @1pm--8 points

Week 5: Tuesday

Last half of class work done with groups

Week 5: Thursday

Google site--20 points

Presentation--individual performance--3 points

Handout--2 points

Tips

For help distinguishing between peer-reviewed and popular sources, refer to:

- <http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/distinguish-between-popular-and-scholarly-journals>

For help finding peer-reviewed scholarship, try the following databases:

- Google Scholar (sign in through the library website, even when off-campus)

For help formatting your list of sources:

- ASA: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/03/>

NOTES: