|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **Assignment 1: Group Project (30%)**  The word count for the **group project** is between 3000 and 3500 words. Indicate on the cover page of your paper, the names of all the group members (as per the matriculation records), a clear and accurate title of your topic, the discussion group you belong to, tutor’s name, tutorial time and day. The paper is due on **Week 7,** **8 March 2024 (Friday)**. Please retain a copy of your paper before submission. This group assignment is worth 30% of your total marks.  **Objective**  The task for this component will be to write a paper, as a group, on any topic relevant to this course. This assignment acquaints you with the basic steps you must take in carrying out research. There will be little restriction to what topics your group intend to choose. You are expected to formulate your own research problem based on your interest and access to data/field sites. It is encouraged to use the lecture topics/material to assist in the formulation. You are allowed to tap on one’s own life experiences and biography to structure the investigative process which is typical in the study of deviance. In this assignment, you will learn, as a group, to make decisions on what topic to work on, what material to collect, how to collect the relevant data, where to find them, and how to organize and present your data in a clear and coherent manner.   The objective of this assignment is to assess your ability to apply sociological analysis to a topic in Sociology of Deviance/Crime/Social Control/Law/Criminal Justice that you are interested in. Essentially, you and your group will be attempting to make sense of a situation, phenomenon, event, policy, discourse or issue that you consider to be worthy of and warranting investigation. You will be assessed on your conceptual skills, ability to collect good data, and interpret/analyze the data sociologically. It is important that you remain theoretically conscious. By this, you will be assessed on your ability to locate or connect the data to the established theoretical traditions/paradigms you have been exposed to in Sociology of Deviance. Or, perhaps you might want to make a convincing argument as to why a particular theory falls short of explaining crime or criminal motivation regarding the phenomenon you’ve observed.    **Doing Research**   To facilitate this group assignment, you should develop a research plan that enables you to take into account what information sources are available. The data you collect for your assignment may come from primary sources (observations, interviews, archives, newspapers, documents, government reports) or secondary sources (books, chapters, articles, commentaries), or a combination of both. You have a choice of doing fieldwork, or just working on published material.  Please remember to use proper academic referencing and citation methods. For this assignment, you may use APA, ASA or Chicago.  Begin your research process with a list of potential topics and discuss them with your group members. Decide on one topic but it is important to have other alternatives for topics if your initial exploration suggests that it has limited potentialities.  Once you have made the choice of “What to study?”, you must do a literature review of the subject to find out what material has already been published on it to see “What has been studied?”. A properly done literature search will introduce you to the theoretical perspectives taken by other researchers to study the phenomenon in question, the methods they have used, and the kind of empirical data presented.  Upon doing a literature review, it is imperative to ask the right questions. A well-defined and clear research objective will help you facilitate the investigative process but at the same time, everyone must be flexible enough to accommodate shifts in the research focus/perspectives as your research progresses.  Next, the group must decide on “How to study?” which refers to the data collection process. As social science researchers, the group must be realistic and practical about the issue of gaining access to relevant field sites or sources of data and the related ethical considerations if you’re keen on collecting primary data (i.e interviews, surveys, focus group discussions). Otherwise, you may plan to carry out library research working with published materials and secondary data such as newspaper articles, financial reports etc. For any questions about the project, do contact your respective tutors for guidance. |     **Assignment 2: Individual Paper (20%)**  The word count for this **individual paper** is 1500 words. Indicate on the cover page of your assignment: your full name as per the matriculation records, a clear and accurate title of your topic, the discussion group you belong to, tutor’s name, tutorial time and day. This assignment is due on **Week 11,** **1 April 2024 (Monday)**.  Please retain a copy of your paper before submission. This assignment is worth 20% of your total marks.  For the second assignment, you write a paper relating to the concepts of primary and secondary deviance as discussed under the Labelling tradition of Sociology of Deviance. This will be covered in Topic 6 of this module. You are expected to interview a deviant who has transitioned from primary deviance to secondary deviance and analyse the role played by his/her family, community, peers, social institutions, state agencies etc in enabling this process of transformation. These deviants need not be ‘convicted criminals’ but may be someone you may know who has committed deviant acts. As per research ethics, the identities of these individuals must be kept anonymous. You may draw on the research experience from your first assignment, but the research material presented and analysed for the second assignment has to be different from the one used for assignment 1.  In essence, primary deviance refers to the initial offending behaviour(s) and may mark the first real behavioural change a person experiences. In simple terms, it is ‘the first time you do something.’ An example of primary deviance would be a person who hasn’t committed any crime in his or her whole life but then commits drug abuse, shoplifting or joins a gang and assaults a rival. Primary deviance is usually a one-time occurrence, but some people continue on this deviant path and become ‘secondary deviants’ due to social reactions, sanctions, reintegration challenges, stigma, or a combination of all these in addition to other factors. Your task is to unpack on the factors that may affect this transition from primary to secondary deviance. It is highly encouraged to apply other concepts that you have learnt throughout this course. |