**Family in Film MIDTERM Assignment**

Adapted from Holster, Kristin. 2012 "Media Representation of Family Paper Assignment." Assignment published in *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington DC: American Sociological Association. (http://trails.asanet.org)

**Instructions**:

1. **Choose a movie/TV show revolving around families.**
2. After watching the movie or at least a few episodes of the TV show, write a **4-8 (do not go over 9 pages of actual text) page double spaced paper** following the criteria below:

* —**Describe HOW the family** in the movie or episode you chose (2-4 paragraphs normally) fulfills TWO of the Vanier Institute FUNCTIONS of a family (see slides What is Family – Slide 10 or your textbook for more information) with detailed examples.
  + This is generally structured like: claim/argument (i.e. which function of the family and what does that function mean in your own words), evidence/example (i.e. specific scene/conversation/portion of the media), explanation (connect the example from the film/show back to the function).
  + Each of the functions (you should have 2) you discuss will most likely be 1-2 paragraphs.
* —**Chose one theory from class theory slides or chapter 2 of the textbook** and apply it to the family in your movie of choice. (typically about 2-4 paragraphs)
  + Explain the basics of the theory in your own words AND give at least 2 detailed examples for show it applies to a scene/portion of the movie/episode.
* —Include a discussion of **at least two of the following** & explain them in relation to the family within the movie**: class, race, sexuality, or gender**. (Typically each section would get about 2-4 paragraphs)
  + **Include at least 4 connections total** from class (i.e. specific terms, research, concepts, etc.) in THIS section
    - Please give explanations/definitions of your connections AND give detailed examples
    - So if you chose to discuss RACE and GENDER, you might have 2-3 paragraphs for race with 2 connections, and 2-3 paragraphs for gender with 2 connections. These should be DIFFERENT than your discussion of the functions of a family and the theory section
* —In addition, discuss 2 similarities AND 2 differences between the family within the movie/TV episode and your own family (typically, this section would have 1-2 paragraphs for similarities and 1-2 paragraphs for differences)

Paper should be 4-8 pages double-spaced 12-point font, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman. Please include proper IN-TEXT citations AND A WORKS CITED PAGE – author’s last name & year if pulling material from book/textbook/class material but paraphrasing (AND quotation marks & page number IF directly quoting).

**Turn in the paper on Canvas by 11:59PM ON March 4th**

**RUBRIC (SEE NEXT PAGE)**

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|  | **EXCELLENT** |  | **FAIR** |  | **UNACCEPTABLE** |
| **Formatting Requirements** | On time, length requirement met, formatting follows guidelines on assignment; includes in-text citations and works cited page  5-4 points |  | On time BUT either length requirement not met OR there are major formatting/citation errors  2.5-4 points |  | Not on time, length requirement not met & a lot of formatting errors  0-2.5 points |
| **Spelling & grammar** | Clear writing, few, if any spelling errors, few or minimal grammatical mistakes  5-4 points |  | Writing is mostly clear, some spelling errors and some grammatical errors  2.5-4 points |  | Unclear writing, paper is full of grammatical or spelling errors – hard to read  0-2.5 points |
| **Vanier Institute** | Detailed summary of family, very descriptive  Includes 2 detailed connections to Vanier Institute functions  20-11 points |  | Adequate summary of family, not a lot of detail  Includes 1 connection to Vanier Institute functions  10-1 points |  | Includes NO mention of a connection to Vanier Institute functions  0 points |
| **Theory** | 1 theory FROM CLASS THEORY MODULEOR TEXTBOOK CH ON THEORY, definition/explanation AND application of how it related to family within movie/show of choice – i.e. at least 2 detailed examples, good understanding of the theory & its components  20-15 points |  | 1 theory used, some description, lacking understanding of theory; i.e. examples are not very detailed; key components of theory missing; etc.  5-14 points |  | No theory used or theory is incorrect/poorly described  0-5 points |
| **Discussion of class concepts (2 areas must be discussed –gender, race, class, sexuality & 4 explicit connections must be used total in describing these two areas)** | 2 areas discussed, very descriptive, good understanding of terms, connects them to family within movie/TV show. Uses 4 explicit connections to class (i.e. specific research, terms, concepts, videos, etc.)  40-26 points |  | 1 area is discussed, good detail, adequate understanding. Uses at least 2 connections to course & explains it well  25-6 points |  | No clear discussion of class, race, gender, or sexuality; no 4 connections  0-5 points |
| **Connections to own family** | Discusses how family within movie/show relates to own family, discusses at least 2 similarities AND 2 differences  10-7 points |  | Discusses how family within movie/show related to own family, discusses only similarities or only differences or only one of each, or good detail but could be expanded significantly  6-3 points |  | No connection to own family at all  0-2 points |