**KIN 169: Diversity, Stress, and Health**

**Scholarly Research Paper**

Students will synthesize current research related to structured and longstanding inequalities or stressors experienced by a particular diverse group in the U.S. Students should also describe the short- and long-term health consequences related to the inequalities identified. The group selected should represent one or more of the following characteristics: race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and age. Papers should include a synopsis, analysis, and application of current research on the chosen inequality. Papers should also include discussion of social actions or behavioral interventions intended to reduce or eliminate the inequity.

**Assignment components**

1. Annotated Bibliography of at least 5 academic primary sources (see separate guideline sheet on Canvas for how to structure this portion)
   1. Worth 25% of your paper grade
2. Final paper incorporating research from your annotated bibliography into a coherent and streamlined discussion of 5-7 double-spaced pages (see guidelines below)
   1. Worth 75% of your paper grade

**Requirements**

* No hard copy required
* Late papers will be penalized a grade step each day (i.e. B drops to B-)
* Worth 20% of your final grade
* Criteria for evaluation will include: 1) content & organization; 2) Integration of relevant class concepts; 3) Writing clarity; and 4) Originality & creativity
* 5-7 double-spaced pages
* 12 pt. font
* APA format required only for in-text citations and reference list
* **At least** five different primary sources (Academic journals or Academic-oriented books)
* Quotations from primary sources should be kept to a minimum.
* The paper must be an original work created for this class. No essays from previous classes will be accepted.
* Any instances of plagiarism will be adjudicated to the fullest extent

**Sample Topics**

* Any structured inequality or health disparity will work for this assignment. However, it may be helpful to choose topics that are more specific than they are broad. For example, a topic such as “racism in America” would be overly broad and impossible to distill into 7 pages. Therefore, try to select a very specific health disparity or inequality that will be easier to write about in 5-7 pages.
* Choose a diverse group experiencing a specific inequality or health disparity
* If you need help finding a topic, refer to the list of health disparities posted on Canvas under the modules section.

**Potential Outline**

1. Introduction
   1. What is your paper’s general theme?
   2. Identification of diverse group and inequality
      1. Why did you choose this specific group?
      2. Rationale?
   3. Specific ideas you intend to discuss
   4. Statement of purpose
      1. Something like, “Therefore, this paper will discuss….”
2. Summary of inequality/disparity
   1. Who? What? When? Where? Why?
   2. Demographics of diverse group
   3. Incidence rate of health issue or adverse health effects
      1. Has it been getting worse? Better?
   4. Short- and long-term consequences?
3. Sociohistory
   1. When & How did this inequality/disparity originate?
      1. Historical and Social processes
      2. Mechanism?
   2. Think critically!
      1. Consider: Environment, Laws & Policies, Social Programs
         1. Education, law enforcement, physical activity, diet, sanitation, etc..
4. Social Actions
   1. What has or hasn’t worked to address the inequality/disparity?
   2. Consider both small- and large-scale actions
   3. Limitations of social actions (what aspects of the issue make it difficult to address?)
5. Conclusion
   1. Summarize your main arguments concisely.
   2. What’s next for this diverse group and this inequality? Future research or actions.
   3. Final thoughts.

**Tips for an Excellent Paper**

* Create an outline before sitting down to write
  + Don’t read the research as you write
  + Read the research before and create an outline of your narrative
* Proofread for syntax, grammar, and clarity!!!
* Use direct quotes sparsely and only when extremely profound or necessary
  + If you need to discuss an academic source paraphrase their argument into your own words
* Weave academic sources with your own narrative; discuss and analyze
* Avoid simply describing your experiences; discuss and analyze them in the context of class concepts and research
* Adequately **introduce** your paper; tell the reader what you are going to say, why you are going to say it, and how you plan to go about it
* Adequately **conclude** your paper; summarize your narratives in the context of the research and give some final thoughts