

**SC2205: SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY  
SEMESTER 1 2015/2016**

**Research Paper Instructions:  
Marriage and Parenthood in Singapore**

Students are to complete a research paper as part of the requirements for this course.

After submitting your research paper outline, you can begin writing the first draft of your research paper. Remember that writing is usually a circular rather than a linear process – your argument will help develop your writing and the process of writing will develop your argument and your use of evidence.

***Write the first draft.*** The purpose of this draft is to work out what you think about the question, in relation to what you have read. Follow your outline. Resist the temptation to just summarize the ideas you have read – for example, excessive quoting. Rather, use these ideas to answer your question. Try to write it all in one go, but do not be too concerned about the order of paragraphs or the quality of the writing – you can develop and refine the research paper once you have something down worth developing and refining. Focus on one section of your paper at a time. You can have a go at writing your introduction but come back and rewrite it after your first draft.

***Do more focused reading.*** Identify where you need more information. It is easy sometimes to find a position and just follow that argument in your research paper. Read more critically than this: what are the different positions or the strengths and weaknesses of each? Identify where you need more information. Widen/narrow your literature search for more material. Find examples to support your main points.

***Take a break.*** Put some critical distance and time between yourself and your work. This will help you to return to your research paper with fresh eyes.

***Revise your first draft and work on a second draft.*** As you write your first draft, your ideas and arguments clarify and, often, the focus of your argument comes together in the last sections of the research paper or in the conclusion. In your second draft, make sure your argument also appears in your introduction and builds consistently throughout the sections of your paper.

***Edit.*** Use a checklist for editing the final draft, which incorporates formatting requirements as well as things you know you often have problems with – for example, expression, spelling, referencing, and so on.

Remember that your research paper must incorporate concepts and theories from the course to analyze the issue you have identified. How does it relate to specific concepts and theories from the course, such as ideas about romantic love and courtship, marriage, gender and the division of labor, divorce, and so on? You do not have to discuss *all* the concepts and theories

from the course, but you should either discuss one key concept or theory in great depth, or a few different concepts and theories in relation to the issue you have identified. Your paper should be no longer than 2000 words with a minimum of 5 references (books and/or journal articles) adhering to APA style for in-text citation and references.

***Plagiarism.*** Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as one's own. For example, cutting-and-pasting or copying text and using it as if it is your original work and not citing the source it comes from. This is a serious academic offense. It will lead to disciplinary action by the university. Do not do it! Always identify your sources!

***Submit your research paper and reward yourself!***

A soft copy should be submitted to IVLE and a hard copy to your tutor's mailbox by 5pm on Tuesday 3 November.