



Inspiring Excellence

BRAC UNIVERSITY

Assignment 1

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)

In the first few weeks of the course, you learned about the three major theoretical perspectives (functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist). These perspectives offer theoretical paradigms for explaining how the structure of society and culture work. Each perspective uniquely conceptualizes social orders, social forces, culture and human behavior. In this assignment, you will use three theoretical perspectives to analyze a cultural component.

STEP 1:

Select a cultural component that you believe represents your community/society/country. The component could be a material form of culture like a traditional dress, utensils, jewelry etc or a non-material culture form of culture like any festivals, rituals etc. While choosing the component make sure you select something unique and original.

STEP 2:

Conduct research on the component, i.e., search out and draw on some additional materials on your own, beyond the readings assigned by the course teacher. The additional materials may range from books or journal articles available in the Jstore to relevant materials (text, videos, etc.) available on the internet. You may also draw on your own observations and experiences, if relevant, or conduct some interviews or mini-fieldwork.

STEP 3: Apply functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspectives to analyze your findings. First, outline the manifestation functions, latent functions, and dysfunctional sides of the components, then find how the component create or

reflect social inequalities, and lastly, determine the cultural significance and symbolic values of the components.

STEP 4: Write a 800-1200 word essay which will include all the above information.

Format:

Your essay should have a title, an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. It should also have a front page consisting of the following: name, ID, **section number**, course name, and teacher name.

- Introduction:
 - Start with a hook to grab the reader's attention (e.g., a quote, a question, a startling fact, personal story).
 - Provide some background information about the topic.
- Body Paragraphs:
 - Each body paragraph should focus on a single point or idea that supports your thesis.
 - Begin each paragraph with a clear topic sentence that relates to your thesis.
 - Provide evidence, examples, or quotes from your research to support your points.
 - Analyze and interpret the evidence to explain how it supports your thesis.
 - Ensure there is a logical flow between paragraphs. Use transitions to guide your reader.
- Conclusion:
 - Restate your thesis statement in different words.
 - Summarize the main points you've made in the body paragraphs.
 - End with a thought-provoking or compelling concluding statement.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

- Subject comprehension: 10%
- Content (use of journal articles, books, and other material): 30%
- Critical analysis: 40%
- Writing (presentation/style; APA Referencing): 20%

Deadline and where to submit:

The submission deadline is 1st March at 11:59 p.m. (Late submissions will be penalized.)

You need to upload your assignment on Turnitin. Only 15 percent similarity is allowed on Turnitin. A similarity of more than 15% will be penalized.

Check out Google Classroom to learn more about how to create an account and submit your assignment on Turnitin.