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Information Literacy across Disciplines: Sociology, Modern Languages, Nursing, and Library Science

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Information Literacy Across Disciplines: Sociology, Modern Languages, Nursing, & Library Science

Dr. Leo Mundy, Dr. Elizabeth Combier,
Dr. Michelle Byrne, and Ms. Shawn Tonner

Sociology: Learning Goals

- “Learning goals” are achievements in learning that I hope to encourage in every undergraduate student. These achievements in learning can be divided into two categories: (1) Fundamental Achievements and (2) Transformational Achievements. This course will help you make progress toward those achievements.
- Fundamental Achievements are both a repertory of skills and a base of knowledge whose mastery I require as a condition for successful advancement. Such mastery is required in part because it constitutes a necessary preparation for advanced study and for demands of professional life and in part because such mastery constitutes an excellent preparation for the challenges of living a life in the post-modern world.
- This course, in particular, is designed for the development of certain skills, such as critical thinking, communication, interpersonal, and information literacy skills. The primary method for refining these skills is through in-class and small-group conversations and information literacy assignments. This is a classroom. You are not expected to be brilliant, perfect, or clever. You are expected to do your best to articulate the main points in the readings. You are allowed to struggle, to have doubts, and to be confused over the material.

Sociology: Learning Goals

- Transformational achievements are achievements in learning I hope to inspire as students progress through the core, including personal transformations that extend the intellectual, aesthetic, social, and moral reach of human beings. Such achievements can not be made a condition of the course. Still, I shall regularly occasion such achievements because they are ends in themselves as forms of human fulfillment and because they contribute to a flourishing, discerning, and responsible life.
- For this course, the material is intended to stimulate enthusiasm for self-knowledge and reflection, thereby increasing your capacity for independent thought and openness to new ideas. Through examining various topics in sociology, the course seeks to enhance your sociological imagination and to encourage the expression of your own intellectual voice. Developing an imagination and intellectual voice is mandatory for this course. You will not be evaluated on what you know walking into the course, but on how well your imagination developed during our time together. Remember, in the realm of the mind, “right” answers do not exist. There are only intellectual positions. Yet wrong answers are quite alive. You need to understand the intellectual positions that are made available before you can form your own intellectual judgment and create an examined philosophy of life. This process requires an appreciation for cultural differences and our common human condition.

Sociology: Five Step IL Process

- Step One

Epistemology, Knowledge, & Social Theory

- Introduction
- Information Literacy: Betsy Whitley

Sociological Perspectives & Social Stratification

- Review Information Literacy #1
- **Information Literacy Assignment I:** You are required to find a newspaper or magazine article on the working class. Is this a critical piece of journalism?
- Small Group Discussions on Assignment I

Sociology: Five Step IL Process

- Step Two
- **Socialization Theories**
- Lecture on Psychoanalysis & Behaviorism
- Lecture on Cognitive Development & Social Construction
- **Information Literacy Assignment II:** You are required to find an **academic** article on gender socialization from a psychology or sociology journal. Does this article support a psychoanalytic, behaviorist, or cognitive development, view on socialization?
- Small-Group Discussions on Assignment II

Sociology: Five Step IL Process

- Step Three
- **Race and Ethnicity**
- Cultural & Institutional Racism
- **Information Literacy Assignment III:** You are required to find two academic articles, one optimistic and one pessimistic about Affirmative Action. Compare and contrast the articles and make an informed decision about Affirmative Action based on your readings.
- Small-Group Discussions on Assignment III

Sociology: Five Step IL Process

- Step Four
- **Social Change and Globalization**
- Documentary: The First Measured Century
- **Information Literacy Assignment IV**: Select one topic from the documentary. Find one old (about 25 years ago) and one new (last five years) academic article that focuses on statistical information and analysis. Compare and contrast these two articles and research findings.
- Small-Group Discussions on Assignment IV

Sociology: Five Step IL Process

- Step Five
- **Information Literacy Preparation for Final Assignment**
- Discussion and Review of Final IL V
- Do Library Work Independently
- **Information Literacy Assignment V, Due Finals Week:** Select a chapter from Part IV of your textbook, focusing on the economy, politics, families, religion, education, or health. Read the chapter, select a specific topic addressed in the chapter and find 4 up-to-date sociological articles. Write a 5-page paper, writing a review of the literature. Your goal is to find academic articles that provide two competing theoretical or empirical claims about the specific reality under investigation.