**The Sociological Imagination Mini Thesis Research Project**

**Sociology for Majors**

**Fall 2020**

**Mini-Thesis Format**

Each student it required to complete a 10-15- page mini-thesis. The mini-thesis assignment will serve as the student’s introduction to the major components of a Senior Thesis. Students will be introduced to sociological analysis, writing and documentation and expected to demonstrate an understanding of what is required by the first four sections of a thesis structure. Thus, the final mini-thesis will serve as a draft for completion over the course of the student’s matriculation as a Sociology major.

**Abstract**

The student will provide a one-two paragraph summary of the mini-thesis. The abstract tells the reader what you did as a researcher and what you found. This section is completed once you have completed the other required sections.

**Statement of the Research Questions and Agenda (Statement of the Problem)**

In this section, the student will introduce the reader to the sociological question(s) being investigated. The nature and scope of the question (s) is discussed in this section. The student indicates how the selected research is different from other sociological studies focusing on similar research questions. The socio-historical context of the question(s) must be discussed. The student indicates the process (es) of discovery that will best assist in the interrogation of the selected research questions. Students will reveal how the selected research questions reflect their personal intellectual interests. (3-5 pages)

**Literature Review**

The student will present at least 6-8 references in a discussion format focusing on what other scholars have discussed and/or researched and analyzed in relationship to the student’s selected sociological research question(s). It is important that this section not reflect a summary or annotated bibliography of the selected references, but rather a logically flowing discussion of the sociological research related to the student’s area of inquiry. The references should represent journal articles, books, research reports or other library sources. Internet references will not be accepted. All references must be properly documented with in-text documentation and a fully developed reference page. (4-6 pages)

**Theory and Hypothesis/ Research Questions**

The student will formulate hypotheses (is) or research questions based on a selected sociological theory or theoretical paradigm that will guide the study. The student will discuss the appropriateness of the theoretical framework or theory (ies) (1-2 pages)

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**Methodology**

The student will discuss the selected methodology. The student will discuss how data was gathered. The student will discuss the selected chosen methodology (2 -3 pages). This section will also begin a discussion of the scope and limitations of your research.

**Analysis of Findings**

The student will present findings and discuss them in the context of what was revealed in the Statement of the Problem, Literature Review and Theory Section.

**Implications for Public Policy**

Given what the student has learned, what are the policy implications or general implications of the findings?

**Summary and Conclusions** The student will provide a brief summary and concluding thoughts. This section should connect all other preceding sections. (2 pages)