

Contemporary Social Issues: Power & Inequality through Global Perspectives

Sociology 216D
University of San Diego
Professor:
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Oral PRESENTATION:

Teams of two will conduct and present original sociological research. You have some creative freedom in how you put this project together and during office hours I will provide you with guidance. Schedule a team meeting with me, at least two weeks in advance of your presentation date, so that I may provide you with mentorship on how your research questions fit within the paradigm of sociological inquiry. One benefit of the team oral presentations is that your creative research and new knowledge will be shared with the class, offering us the opportunity to collectively learn together. Your presentation should last about nine to 10 minutes. Be sure you rehearse it in advance to assure you are not too short or too long.

Your presentation can follow one of three formats. I) Conducting original sociological research; II) An experiential approach to teaching a sociological concept; III) A sociological presentation combining technological practice with sociological analysis

- I. Oral presentations based on original research should follow this sociological format:
 - a) Introduction – what social research issue are you addressing and why is this socially relevant/important
 - b) Relate your topic to some existing sociological research – briefly address what other sociological researchers have found in relation to your topic. I will show you in class how to effectively research sociological journal articles
 - c) Describe your method/approach for collecting/analyzing data. In the past, students have conducted qualitative interviews, administered surveys, engaged in observations, and/or examined archival data.
 - d) Tell us what you found based on your research. Organize and summarize your findings.
 - e) Conclude with the significance of your project. Why does this social issue matter? What are the limitations of your research? What might be some future directions for this project?

II) An experiential approach to teaching a sociological concept

- a) Identify and explain the pedagogical exercise you will be adapting and how it relates to sociological inquiry. (You can research ideas in the journal: *Teaching Sociology* (available electronically in our library – you can download full text articles for free by signing in with your library card name and number).
- b) Implement the exercise in class

- c) Discuss what the experiential activity accomplished
- d) Review learning and relate to sociological inquiry

III) A sociological presentation combining technological practice with sociological analysis

- a) Introduce the objective of your presentation, relating it to sociological research.
- b) Explain the methods used to produce your technological product. Some possible technological products include:
 - a. Make a short 3 -4 minute movie. Conduct an interview or put together a short film using class ideas. There are video cameras available for rent (be sure to reserve one through the media center if you do not have your own) and editing software (iMovie, for example) installed on some of the computers in the computer lab.
 - b. Create a 3-4 minute podcast. A podcast is an audio file, typically an MP3 file that you can play from your computer or a portable media player. If you choose this option, you would be producing a recording that addresses some sociological topic.
- c) Follow up with a discussion of what your technological product achieved, as it relates to sociological issues. Your job is to make the discussion following the movie or podcast sociologically relevant and compelling.

Peer evaluation of oral presentation: In the spirit of collective grading, your classmates will complete an evaluation of your presentations (their identities will be removed and I will return their feedback to you in the form of a packet). The sample rubric (provided below) will allow for feedback in the following areas: a) Content depth (How much did I learn from this presentation?) b) Relevance to issues of power/inequality/sociological imagination; c) presentation style, preparedness, shared division of labor; d) Use of communication aids; e) creativity and critical insights

Oral Presentation "follow-up" written summary: You are also required to turn in an individually-authored 1-2 page summary reflecting on what your oral presentation achieved. Here is your opportunity to also reflect on limitations/shortcomings of your presentation, and what you learned from the process. Your grade will be recorded after each team member has turned in the written follow-up assignment.

Oral Presentation Rubric: SOC 216D: Contemporary Social Issues

This evaluation sheet explains how you will be graded on your oral presentation..

Levels of Achievement

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Exemplary</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Proficient</i>
Content Depth (How much did I learn from this presentation)	Speaker provides an accurate and complete explanation of key concepts and theories, drawing upon relevant literature. Listeners gain insights.	For the most part, explanations of concepts and theories are accurate and complete. Some helpful applications are included.	Explanations of concepts and/or theories are inaccurate or incomplete. Little attempt is made to tie theory to practice. Listeners gain little from the presentation	No reference is made to literature of theory. Listeners gain no new insights.
Relevance to course	The presenters targeted the intended theme with the sophistication appropriate to a lower division “D” course.	Level of presentation is generally appropriate. Pacing is sometimes too fast or slow.	Aspects of the presentation are too elementary or too sophisticated for audience.	Audience seemed bored by the presentation. The presenters seemed to miss the point.
Presentation Style and Organization	Presentation is clear, logical and organized. Listeners can follow line of reasoning.	Presentation is generally clear and well organized. A few minor points may be confusing. The audience occasionally has trouble hearing the presenter.	Listener can follow presentation with effort. Some arguments are not clear. Organization seems haphazard. The presenter seems slightly uncomfortable at times.	A tad confusing. Logic not entirely clear. Disorganized.
Use of Communication Aids (transparencies, slides, posters, handouts, computer generated material, etc.)	Communication aids enhance the presentation. They are prepared in a professional manner. Font on visuals is large enough to be seen by all. Information is organized to maximize audience understanding. Details are minimized so that main points stand out.	Communication aids contribute to the quality of the presentation. Font size is appropriate for reading. Appropriate information is included. Some material is not supported by visual aids.	Communication aids are poorly prepared or used inappropriately. Font is too small to be easily seen. Too much information is included. Unimportant material is highlighted. Listeners may be confused.	No communication aids are used, or they are so poorly prepared that they detract from the presentation.
“Wow” Factor: Creativity and Critical Insights	Excellent and imaginative. Well-planned. Well articulated and thoughtful, provided a good foundation for discussion.	Average creativity, a little predictable. Thoughtful, but needed to be a bit deeper.	Could have used a little more oomph. Would have liked to delve more deeply into the topic. We needed more leadership on the topic.	Not as creative as it could have been. Seemed like a RedBull all-nighter.