

MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER - 40%

Students are required to submit a research proposal and substantial research essay that critically assesses technoscientific knowledge and/or practice related to any of the themes covered in lectures and assigned readings.

10% PROPOSAL DUE: FEB 7, 2007

The proposal must include a 150-word abstract that describes the research question and the theme(s) it addresses, as well as a tentative bibliography of at least 6 sources (academic books and journal articles).

30% PAPER DUE: MAR 7, 2007

The final research paper must include a 150-word abstract that describes the research problematic, summarises the research conducted and presents the conclusions.

The essay itself should be substantial in length (3500-4000 words) including a literature review and sustained critical analysis and argument, as well as a final bibliography of at least 10 relevant sources (academic books and journal articles).

Proposal evaluation.

Abstract (7 marks)

Describes a general domain of research and provides a critical research question or problematic (4 marks); includes an explanation of how the question(s) relate to one or more course themes and what this research can contribute to our overall understanding (3 marks).

Bibliography (3 marks)

Includes at least 6 relevant sources (.5 marks each) from academic books and journals, properly formatted. Additional sources are welcome once the minimum requirement has been met.

Total - 10 marks

Final paper evaluation.

Abstract (10 marks)

Provides a clear statement of the research question or problematic, summarises the research conducted and presents the conclusions (5 marks); includes clear explanations of how the problem(s) relate to one or more course themes and what the research contributes to our overall understanding (5 marks).

Literature review (15 marks)

Provides a cohesive and coherent assessment of available literature on the chosen research problematic (5 marks); goes beyond descriptive summary and provides an historical and thematic guide to the research domain (5 marks), as well as assesses the strengths and weaknesses of each concept or perspective (5 marks).

Critical analysis & argument (20 marks)

Provides a clear thesis statement and explains how it contributes to our critical understanding of course themes (5 marks); clearly and persuasively presents an argument or position to support the thesis statement, including the methodology used (5 marks); goes beyond stating opinions or facts to reflexively and explicitly acknowledge and engage disagreements (5 marks); identifies gaps in knowledge and makes informed suggestions for future research (5 marks).

Organisation & presentation (10 marks)

Communicates effectively using proper grammar and spelling (2 marks); presents information coherently and consistently (2 marks); develops a clear structure (i.e. introduction, body, conclusion) that presents the argument logically and persuasively (2 marks); uses creative headings and sub-headings to focus and engage the reader (2 marks); uses sources and quotes effectively (2 marks).

Bibliography (5 marks)

Includes at least 10 relevant sources (.5 marks each) from academic books and journal articles, consistently cited and properly formatted. Additional sources are welcome once the minimum requirement has been met.

Total - 60 marks (60/2 for 30 total)

Additional resources.

Course themes and keywords can be found here:

<http://socanth4036.wordpress.com/class-themes-keywords/>

Recommended journals and books on reserve can be found here:

<http://socanth4036.wordpress.com/research-resources/>

More handouts on academic research and writing can be found here:

<http://socanth4036.wordpress.com/class-assignments/>