

“Essay 1: Guidelines and Requirements” SOC2112A 2014

Essay 1:

The questions are designed to evaluate your familiarity with, and comprehension of the course material i.e. the weekly readings. Therefore you must not use any sources outside of the assigned readings and lectures (Wikipedia, Social Theory Readers, etc)

Answer in standard essay format i.e. your essay should have an introductory paragraph, a main body consisting of several paragraphs and a conclusion.

In the introduction you should clearly state the main thesis/argument of your paper

Because this is an essay for a theory class the evidence you use to support your argument will come from the readings themselves and should take the form of direct references to the original writings – not citations from my lecture notes or a recycling of my lecture notes

Your conclusion should briefly summarize the main key points of your essay and tie into your thesis statement/argument from the introductory paragraph.

When citing the original source from a reading you should include Authors surname, date of publication and page number in brackets

For example: (Weber, 1905: 33)

I will put a list of the full bibliographic information for all the readings on BBL

Choose one of the following questions to answer. Read page 2 of the syllabus regarding the exact requirements

Question 1:

With direct reference to ‘Suicide’ and ‘Types of Law in Relation to Types of Social Solidarity’ explain why social solidarity is so central to Emile Durkheim’s analysis of society

Question 2:

Explain why Marx’s analysis of ‘the commodity’ is so central to his analysis and critique of Capitalism

Question 3:

Explain how Weber’s analysis of class and status groups might be used to both critique and support Veblen’s key ideas regarding ‘conspicuous consumption’

Question 4:

With direct reference to the readings of both Robert Park and Georg Simmel explain how the metropolis (the city) can be both a place of individual freedom and social conflict.