

SOC/BLKS 3600 Chocolate Cities

Final Paper

(7-8 pages minimum, excluding references and tables)

Overview

This paper assignment is designed to provide students an opportunity to discuss the history/current status of Black American life in American cities.

A successful paper is clear, concise, organized, analytical, and concrete. It uses the active voice; it has a thesis; it explains the significance of the topic; and it tells the reader who, what, when, where, why, and how.

Additionally, your final essay should accomplish/include the following:

1. Clearly identify the research question or hypothesis you are presenting in your paper;
2. Indicate the historical setting or social context within which [your topic] occurs;
3. Discuss the current status of public policy relative to [your topic], if applicable;
4. Discuss the political, social, and cultural implications associated with [your topic], if applicable;
5. Your critical analysis of [your topic] as it relates to the literature reviewed for the project; and
6. Supporting evidence from legitimate reference sources to support item #5 (your critical analysis of the topic).

Papers must be typed and submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Essay Organization

Your final paper should consist of the following sections & subsections:

Introduction (~1 page)

- Introduces the topic;
- Presents overarching thesis (or argument);
 - Don't just repeat the assignment or start writing down everything that you know about the subject. Ask yourself, "What exactly am I trying to prove?" Your thesis is your take on the subject, your perspective, your explanation.
- Sets up the historical context of the situation: Where is the topic in space and time? Who are the main players? It is important to set up this context at the beginning of the paper so readers (me) will see the relevance of the information presented throughout the rest of the paper.

Body Paragraphs (~6 pages)

- Organized in a linear or chronological order;
 - You should have at least three sub-sections based on: early-life, mid-life, and present-life (or end of life).
- Include data tables, statistics, and appropriate discussion of data in each subsection;
 - You will produce tables on Social Explorer based on the geography and year discussed in each subsection.
 - You must at least explore these 3 variables: total population; racial composition; and income/socioeconomic status
- Discussion of how [your persons] life has been shaped by migration across and residence in different chocolate cities.
- Discussion of how [your persons] life has been shaped by "black placemaking" in different chocolate cities.
- Discussion of how [your person] has contributed to "black placemaking" in their life.
- Consider these questions
 - Is chronology apparent throughout the paper?
 - Is there enough scholarly and non-scholarly evidence cited?

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please refer to this syllabus and the Curry Student Code of Conduct for additional rules regarding plagiarism.

Conclusion (~1 page)

- Summarizes the paper.
- Answers the “why does this matter?” or “what can we learn from this?” questions.
- Consider this question:
 - Do my introduction and conclusion tie together?

References in APA style.

- You must cite at least **4 different scholarly sources beyond the assigned readings for this course.**
- The paper should have proper in-text citations and a reference list / bibliography.
- In general, you must draw on scholarly sources including journal articles, books, book chapters and other reports. You may supplement with materials drawn from popular media (newspapers, magazines), databases (e.g., the U.S. Census), and valid internet sources (but no Wikipedia!!!).

Appendix

- Include all of your data tables and figures at the end of your manuscript in a section called “Appendix.”
- Naming conventions: Tables should be titled/labeled in sequential order. Table 1, Table 2, Table 3, etc.

A detailed rubric will be posted on Canvas.