

Enhancing Global Awareness in SOC 101



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Completion of this project will assist in students' global awareness and ethical reasoning. Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, multicultural perspectives, and/or the role of ethical core values in making personal, social, academic, and professional decisions.

Project Goals:

1. Enhance the learning environment provided in introductory sociology courses.
2. Broaden the minds of students enrolled in this general education course who are not social science majors.
3. Understand how humans interact and function around the world in varying ways.
4. Analyze different layers of sociology and how they apply to global institutions.
5. Apply the materials learned within our classroom and this assignment to real life situations during the semester and understand their importance going into the future.

This project will consist of five parts – 10 points each – totaling 50 points towards your course grade. Each part will have separate due dates and will be explained individually and would take the approximate time of a class period to complete. Grades will be based on the specified rubric. **YOU WILL SUBMIT ALL PARTS BY DEADLINES THROUGH COBRA AS A DISCUSSION BOARD POST.**

Overview: Enhancing Global Awareness in Sociology 101

Part I: Understanding the Importance of Culture Around the World

10 points – Due: _____



This part will examine how people exist differently around the globe.

Part II: Global Deviancy and Crime

10 points – Due: _____



This part will examine deviancy theories, crime and incarceration around the world.

Part III: Impact of Global Families

10 points – Due: _____



This part will examine the most vital social institution: family.

Part IV: Education from a Global Perspective

10 points – Due: _____



This part will examine how education is obtained around the world.

Part V: Global Concerns & Social Change

10 points – Due: _____



This part will examine aspects of social change and global concerns.

Part I: Understanding the Importance of Culture Around the World

This week you have been learning about numerous aspects of culture. There are three things I would like for you to answer/do this week for our global awareness component:

- 1) After reading the text and listening to the lecture - what is your stance on *cultural universals*? Do you believe they truly exist, or not? Why do you feel this way?
- 2) Thinking about *material* and *nonmaterial culture*. Which do you think has the greatest impact on your life currently? Why?
- 3) Do some investigating into the traditions, customs, rituals of other cultures. Select at least **THREE** things to tell me about.

Part II: Global Deviancy and Crime

As we have learned this week, deviancy is in the eye of the beholder. From a sociological perspective, being deviant really means going against the norms of a group/society. However, sometimes that can involve committing a crime, being falsely accused, and/or being incarcerated.

In the lecture, you were asked to view clips of the Stanford Prison Experiment, Milgram's obedience to conformity "shocking" experiment, and Asch's conformity experiment. All of these provide examples of classic studies pertaining to human behavior and deviancy. Be sure to watch the video links, if you have not already.

For this portion of your global awareness work, I would like to focus on crime and incarceration. The United States, known as the 'Land of the Free', incarcerates more people than any other country. Let's examine crime and incarceration rates around the world. Each of you need to select a country and briefly research it. Here are some suggested things to tell us about – feel free to investigate other aspects as you wish...

- Most common types of crime
- Types of punishment – jail, prison, probation, parole, death
- Who is incarcerated? (gender, race/ethnicity, age)
- Rates of incarcerations (based on population)
- Treatment while incarcerated (many places are much worse than the U.S.)
- Recidivism rates
- Culture of spectacle vs. carceral culture

Part III: Impact of Global Families

Whether or not your family has impacted you in positive or negative ways, they play a huge role in the person you become. Functionalists believe families provide emotional support, socialization, and take care of us. Conflict theories believe families perpetuate inequalities by passing on

advantages and disadvantages to members. What do you think? How much has your family helped shape you into the person you are today – and will continue to become. Think about your family of orientation (the one you were raised in) and your family of procreation (the one you created/will create)...

1) Overall, how do you personally define “family”?

2) Using the four sociological perspectives (conflict, functionalist, feminist, and symbolic interactionist) – How would you apply each of them specifically to YOUR family?

3) Family is one of the primary institutions and exist all around the world. Depending on the geographic location, ethnicity/cultural components, and time (historically) families can differ greatly. Do some research on how families around the world compare/contrast to yours. [Suggestions: average number of children, living conditions, life expectancy for elder family members, household structure, rituals, etc. You can investigate anything you want that applies to families.]

Part IV: Education from a Global Perspective

1) Think about your elementary and secondary education experiences. Were you in public or private school? Were you homeschooled? Unschooling? Discuss your experiences with schooling and overall how you would rate the education you received.

2) In the lecture, the book *Academically Adrift* was talked about briefly. A portion of this book is based on the belief that college students are not learning many of the subjects there are studying for the long haul. For example, students are using the ‘earn the grade and dump the material at the door’ mentality. What do you think? Do you agree or disagree? Why does this happen? Give some general feedback on this topic...

3) Compare and contrast the education you received to the education system of another country. You can choose elementary or secondary education systems. For example, how do American schools compare to Iraq? Japan? China? North Korea? [You can select any country that you wish to research.]

Part V: Global Concerns & Social Change

As a nation and world, we are facing numerous social problems. Some of the social pressures we are currently under have been ongoing. Your text and our lecture talk about social change, social movements, and the factors that trigger social change.

1) What is the largest social problem you believe the WORLD is currently facing? Why do you feel this way? What can you do to make a change?

2) What is the largest social problems you believe the UNITED STATES is currently facing? Why do you feel this way? What can you do to make a change?

3) One of the largest global (and national) social problems is the trafficking of humans – for various reasons. You read about this for Reaction Reading #6, *Selling People*.

- Which type of trafficking was the most shocking to you? Why?
- Prior to reading these articles, were you aware these types of trafficking existed? Explain.
- What are some ways you can stop human trafficking around the world?

Grading Rubric for Enhancing Global Awareness Assignments – 10 points each



10/10: Nailed it! Clearly grasping sociological terms and applying concepts to raise global awareness. Additionally, you are showing great writing skills. Keep up the great work! #rockstar



9/10: Almost there! Grasping most of the sociological terms and global concepts being covered in this portion. You are understanding the big picture. Keep working hard and by next time should be moved up to the topic of the rubric.



8/10 or 7/10: Getting close! This was a solid post but did not fully demonstrate what the writing prompts were looking for. Keep trying - by next time you should be moving up the rubric. #fingerscrossedforyou



6/10 or 5/10: Halfway there! Let's keep on building the foundation of sociological concepts, perspectives and terminology. Submission was about half of what would be expected at this point in the course.



4/10 or 3/10: Keep trying! Your submission doesn't complete all portions of the assignment given or demonstrate knowledge of sociological terms and concepts.



2/10 or 1/10: What happened here? Let's review the materials for a better understanding of course concepts and perspectives. This does not demonstrate global awareness.



0/10: You did not participate by the due date. Nada. Zip. Zilch. #igotliterallynothing