

500 Final Paper Assignment

**A UW SSW Writing Center Workshop
Autumn 2021**

With incorporated content attributable to Vern Harner

Land & Labor Acknowledgment

We are gathering in virtual space, and in the context of a university built on stolen lands of the Coast Salish peoples.

We recognize the Indigenous peoples who have been stewards of this land for millenia, and pledge to do our part to care for the land and waterways.

We recognize the unpaid and underpaid labor of enslaved Africans, the incarcerated, migrant farmers, and many others upon whose work our country was founded, and pledge to support the fight for reparations and fair labor practices around the world.

Morgan Wells



Workshop Guidelines

- Interact through the chat box or unmute yourself
- We will be recording the first part of this workshop for those who could not attend
- The presentation will be followed by a Q & A session
- Please share your full name, program (Day, EDP Weekend, EDP Evening, etc.), and year (1, 2, 3, etc.) in the chat box for us to complete or cross-reference with your registration information
 - You can also rename yourself to include your pronouns
- For closed captioning: Click “Live transcript” → “Show subtitle”



Workshop Agenda

- Overview
- Themes & Matrix
- Critical Annotated Bibliography
- Formatting Annotations
- Social Work Canon
- Resources
- Q & A

**DISCLAIMER: There might be slight variations in the assignment guidelines based on your professor. Please refer to your syllabus for your professor's specific expectations.*



Overview



Overview

- The final assignment is to create a collection of materials that you consider your social work canon.
 - *Canon: The foundational body of work that represents the values, beliefs, and perspective of social work.*
- The purpose of this final assignment is for you to critically reflect on:
 - The complex history of the field of social work
 - Historical connections to contemporary practice
 - Your own role in the trajectory of the field

Assignment Guidelines

Format

- **12 pt font, 1 inch margins, page numbers, double spaced**
- **APA format (7th edition)**

Components

- **Matrix**
 - **3x5 table with themes and course content**
- **Critical Annotated Bibliography: 3 pages***
 - **Intro + Conclusion**
 - **4 annotations**
 - **At least 3 must be from different time periods (modules)**
- **Essay: 3-4 double spaced pages***
 - **Respond to the guiding questions**
 - **Intro, two subheadings as themes, and conclusion**
 - **Cite materials in annotated bibliography**

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What is your energy level regarding this course and this assignment? From 1-10 with 1 = "I'm really struggling! Feeling burnt out..." and 10 = "I'm doing great!"

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Themes & Matrix



Two Approaches

THEME or READING

**examples/evidence in
the material(s);
keywords/themes;
main points**

**implications
for
contemporary
social work
(or)
thesis**

**Thesis
Statement**

**examples/evidence
in the material(s)**

**implications for contemporary
social work; broad themes/values
this connects to**

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How do you feel about identifying and generating themes from the course content?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Themes

- a. Social constructions of “problems”
- b. Dependence/independence
- c. Resistance/resilience
- d. Deserving/undeserving
- e. History is present

Matrix

	Theme 1	Theme 2
Content 1		
Content 2		
Content 3		
Content 4		

Matrix

	Social Construction of “Problems”	Deserving/Undeserving
Fraser & Gordon (1994)	Social construction of the welfare queen informs reactionary welfare legislation (TANF)	
Courtenay (1992)	<i>Fraser and Courtenay intersect in that Black women are seen as undeserving</i>	LCSW’s discriminatory practices in the 20s-30s contributed to who was seen as worthy of services
Content 3		
Content 4		

Critical Annotated Bibliography

Critical Annotations

- **Critical annotations not only summarize, they include an EVALUATION (analysis) of the work**
 - **The strengths and weaknesses of the source**
 - **The usefulness of the source for the research topic**
 - **How the source compares to other sources on the same topic**

Strategies & Examples

Synthesis/Analysis

- In “article name”, the authors argue that...
- Their backgrounds as [academics, activists, White people, etc.] influence their perspective, as reflected in this quote/point: “_”
- Though they provide evidence for their argument, they fail to address the impact of _____.
- The implications they provide are/aren’t appropriate, because_____. Underlying assumptions that they don’t address include ____.
- By providing a contemporary social work perspective, we can...

Critical Thinking Cheat Sheet

Harner, 2020, slide 18

Who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits from this? • is this harmful to? • makes decisions about this? • is most directly affected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have you also heard discuss this? • would be the best person to consult? • will be the key people in this? • deserves recognition for this?
What...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are the strengths and weaknesses? • is another perspective? • is another alternative? • would be a counter-argument? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is the best/worst case scenario? • is most/least important? • can we do to make a positive change? • is getting in the way of our action?
Where...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would we see this in the real world? • are there similar concepts/situations? • is there the most need for this? • in the world would this be a problem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can we get more information? • do we go for help with this? • will this idea take us? • are the areas for improvement?
When...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is this acceptable/unacceptable? • would this benefit our society? • would this cause a problem? • is the best time to take action? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will we know we've succeeded? • has this played a part in our history? • can we expect this to change? • should we ask for help with this?
Why...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is this a problem/challenge? • is it relevant to me/others? • is this the best/worst case scenario? • are people influenced by this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should people know about this? • has it been this way for so long? • have we allowed this to happen? • is there a need for this today?
How...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is this similar to _____? • does this disrupt things? • do we know the truth about this? • will we approach this safely? • does this benefit us/others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does this harm us/others? • do we see this in the future? • can we change this for our good?

Sample Critical Annotation

Courtenay, M. (1992). Psychiatric social workers and the early days of private practice. *Social Service Review*, 61(2), 199–214.

Courtenay's article traces how the origins of private practice in social work developed throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Early social workers were motivated to learn psychotherapy methods in order to gain more autonomy and more money via their incoming middle-class clientele. The author critiques how the current licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs) utilize the fields' political influence for licensure, which he says takes away from power to advocate for better working conditions for public agency social workers. **He fails to address how the lack of social worker engagement in discriminatory practices on immigration leading into the 1920s-1930s contributed to the selective clientele that they served. There is also an absence of race analysis of the social workers and their middle-class clientele, and no mention of supervision or early regulations of service implementation procedures in private practice.** It is pertinent for current and future LCSWs to consider which client populations have been *excluded* from private practice, and how that impacts who is viewed as *deserving* or worthy of services.

Sample Critical Annotation

Andrews, J., & Reisch, M. (1997). Social work and anti-communism: A historical analysis of the McCarthy era. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*, 8, 29-49.

McCarthyism refers to the conservative cultural and political landscape spanning 1945-1960, defined by a pervasive fear of communism. During this time, any social worker who publicly challenged structural root causes of human suffering were condemned as a communist. McCarthyism led many social workers to abandon social justice advocacy and shift focus to the professionalization of the field itself. **Abromovitz' study on the 1996 welfare reform exemplifies how the adoption of a politically neutral and complacent identity — derived from the McCarthy era— has had a tremendous impact on direct social work practice today.** A business model of social services takes precedence over client-centered and social justice-focused care. **Together these articles provide a lens to criticize the apolitical legacy of social work such that the “professionalization” of the field is synonymous with deference to state-sanctioned violence and control.**

Formatting Annotations

Formatting Guide

- **First, list the citation. Then, leave a line break and a hanging indent in between the citation and the annotation.**
- **The annotation should be about half a page long.**
- **Spend 1-4 sentences summarizing/describing the material and who the author is. You'll want to mention any important background/method (Is it an empirical study? Primary source? Was it published anywhere notable?)**
- **Then, highlight the parts that are most relevant to social work, any complexities/challenges, etc.**
- **Finally, speak to how the material influences your approach to social work.**

APA Guidelines

Bemdt, T. J. (2002). Friendship quality and social development. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 7-10.



In this short paper, Bemdt examined the impact of friendship quality on Canadian adolescents' social development. This study is unique in its cross-cultural approach to this issue. The major finding was that, regardless of cultural or ethnic background, adolescents with 5 to 7 close and reliable friendships, within which they felt valued and supported, reported a greater sense of stability and self-esteem than those with a greater or lesser number of self-reported friendships. The reliance on qualitative data obtained solely from interviews means this study does



- Use an APA-formatted reference at the top
- Indent annotation underneath

Social Work Canon

Essay Structure

Introduction

This is your introduction. It is one to two paragraphs that frame your paper, provide your thesis statement, and provide necessary background information. You will also state what theme(s)/tension(s) you're using, and why/how. Also included here might be a note on what terms you are using and why. Make sure to include a roadmap e.g. this paper will...

Subheading 1 (Matrix Theme #1)

Then you will provide what informs your approach to social work, drawing from your references. This will move beyond just a summary of different readings. You will provide the evidence to back up your claim (thesis statement) that you gave in the introduction. Each paragraph has its own topic sentence that is then followed by evidence/details drawn from your materials. These paragraphs / sub-sections should be informed by the guiding prompts.

Subheading 2 (Matrix Theme #2)

Subheadings are a great way to help organize your paper and make it easy to follow. You can use them to reflect different sides of the tension, different sub-topics, different sub-points of your larger thesis, etc. They should still transition into one another, though.

Conclusion

Lastly, tie it up in a neat bow for us. Rephrase your thesis statement and synthesize the evidence you provided. Reiterate why your materials relate to your approach to social work. This should probably be one paragraph, but might be two. Remember that paragraphs are at least three sentences long.

Creating a Thesis

- **What is a thesis?**
 - **A statement telling the reader your interpretation of the subject matter or the question at hand**
 - **A disputable claim**
 - **A roadmap for your paper**
- **Is my thesis strong?**
 - **Can I answer the question?**
 - **Is it specific enough?**
 - **Do I take a clear position?**



Thesis Examples

- This awareness leads me to adopt a radical social work identity which celebrates the self-determination of marginalized communities, centers community-based care and activism, and challenges hegemonic knowledge production as it informs mezzo and macro-level practice.
- The stigmatization of dependency and deservingness in underserved populations shapes my emergent social work identity. In my journey to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I will use this knowledge to advocate for equitable mental health services with individuals and groups in the disability and low-income communities.



Sample Introduction

Introduction

French philosopher, Michel Foucault argues that “knowledge and power are inextricably linked” such that those with the most influence in society have long constructed a version of history that reinforces their own positions of superiority (Nicholas, 2019, 8:10). **History teaches us that traditional social work practice contradicts efforts to promote social justice. This paper looks to specific examples in the profession’s history where social workers adhered to a status quo, steeped in neoliberal (market-driven) and colonialist (exploitative) rhetoric.** This awareness leads me to adopt a radical social work identity which celebrates the **self-determination of marginalized communities**, centers **community-based care and activism**, and challenges **hegemonic knowledge production as it informs mezzo and macro-level practice.**

Resources



Writing Support at UW

UW School of Social Work Writing Center

- Check out the Writing Center website to make an appointment and find helpful tips and resources:
socialwork.uw.edu/students/services/writing-support
- Email sswwrite@uw.edu for any questions!
- Next event | Weekend Writing Circle
 - *Sunday, Nov. 14th from 12-1:30 pm*



The Writing Team

Kylie Brief
(she/they)



Booking Calendar:
go.oncehub.com/KylieBrief

Services:

- Virtual 1:1 sessions
- Virtual drop-in advising (Thursday evening)

Erin Bernardy
(she/her)



Booking Calendar:
go.oncehub.com/ErinBernardy

Services:

- Virtual 1:1 sessions
- In-person/virtual drop-in advising (Friday and Saturday afternoons)

Marissa Rodriguez
(they/she)



Booking Calendar:
go.oncehub.com/MarissaRodriguez

Services:

- Virtual 1:1 sessions
- In-person/virtual drop-in advising (Thursday evening)



SSW Subject Librarian

Lynly Beard (she/her) can help with:

- Course-specific guides
- Focusing a research topic
- Identifying and evaluating sources
- Searching library databases effectively
- Using citation management tools
- Creating data visualizations
- guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/lynly
- lynly@uw.edu



Q & A

Anonymous feedback link:

<https://forms.gle/ga7aJbCqqfkm8cuUA>

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After this workshop, what are words to describe how you feel now about moving forward?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

W

References

- Harner, V. (2020). *Final paper: Personal social work canon* [Google Slides presentation]. University of Washington, SOC W 500.
- Harner, V. (2021). *Templates for note taking* [Google Slides presentation]. University of Washington, SOC W 500.