

## LIB200 Final Research Paper

Over the course of the semester, we have explored how the language, history, concepts, and ethics of the biological sciences shaped and continue to shape social inequalities. From the eugenics movements to the configurations of gender, race, disability, and animal rights, to structuring everyday discourses, the public imagination, politics, law, and even our identities.

For your final paper, you will choose a social issue that is important to you and/or that relates to your major (e.g., abortion rights, racism, immigration, climate change, wage inequality, health disparities, food deserts, your neighborhood, education, etc.) and write a multimodal research paper that explores how science has contributed to the issue (e.g., misconceptions, scientific findings, scientific language) are part of this issue.

The research paper will have 3 stages:

- A proposal (1 page) where you will outline your argument and sources
- A one-on-one 15 mins meeting with me (scheduled during class time)
- The research paper (5-6 pages) + Media

### **The Proposal (date):**

Write a one-page proposal/outline telling me about the issue you plan to explore in your paper, what do you want your audience to know about the issue, and what tentative sources do you plan to use. For example, are you planning to discuss racism, abortion rights, education, rezoning, climate change, etc.? What is your argument? How will you support your argument? Proposals should be short and concise (1 page, single or double space, Times New Roman, 12pt).

### **Individual Check-in (date):**

Following your proposal, we will set up one-on-one meetings where we will discuss your proposal, any questions you might have, and some suggestions for your paper (e.g., an academic paper)

## **The Final Paper (Date)**

### **Requirements**

- **Interdisciplinarity:** Explore the issue from several perspectives such as history, sociology, media studies, literature, philosophy, or psychology to understand the effect of science on the issue. For example, you might examine how the language of science (broadly defined) is used to discuss political, educational, medical, etc. aspects related to the issue (e.g., how is science used to talk about race, such as crime statistics, health, etc.?).
- **Multimodality:** Your research project should be multimodal. Meaning that it should have a written component (5-6 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt) and an original artistic component. The artistic component can take many forms, such as a TikTok video, a drawing, a collage, a poster, a poem, a song, etc.

- **Structure:** Include a 1) problem statement (What is the issue? Why should society care?), 2) a thesis statement (your argument or message), and 3) supporting evidence (e.g., sources, a case study, etc).
- **Sources:** Use at least 5 peer-reviewed academic texts and 3 informal sources to support your argument. Academic sources can be statistical studies, qualitative studies, theoretical papers, historical articles, etc. Informal sources can include documentaries, social media posts, art, literature, movies, news articles, etc. You might also use the informal sources as arguments to “argue against.”
- **Anecdotes & Case Studies:** In addition to the 5 academic sources and 3 informal sources, you should include personal anecdotes, an example from class or a different class, the experience of a friend or family member, etc. that supports your argument.
- **Reflection:** The paper is not a summary of the sources, the issue, or what other people have said, but instead you should engage with these and reflect on why you think this is an issue (supported by evidence). Your paper should be opinionated (though it is not *just* an opinion) and should take a clear stance on the issue.
- **Conclusion:** In 1-2 paragraphs, please describe how do you think this issue should be solved drawing on what you have learned over the semester. It is ok to not have a clear solution, but what do you think can be done to improve the problem (e.g., more education/raising awareness, new laws, etc.)

More details and a checklist-rubric will be provided in class and in our one-on-one meeting.