

## 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 an interdisciplinary and multimodal research paper that explores how the biological sciences (e.g., misconceptions, scientific findings, scientific language) are part of this issue.

You should explore the issue from 2 disciplinary perspectives such as history, sociology, media studies, literature, philosophy, and the natural sciences. For example, you might examine how the language of biology (broadly defined) is used to discuss educational issues (e.g., learning loss, no child left behind, universal pre-K, etc.) from the fields of history (e.g., policies) and media studies (e.g., a movie, a novel, etc.).

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.

Your research paper should include a problem statement (What is the issue? Why should society care?), a thesis statement (your argument or message), and use at least 5 peer-reviewed academic texts to support your argument. These might be statistical studies, qualitative studies, theoretical papers, historical articles, etc. In addition to 5 academic sources, you use 3 informal sources such as documentaries, social media posts, art, literature, movies, news articles, etc. to illustrate or build your claim. You might also use the informal sources as arguments to “argue against.”

In addition to the 5 academic sources and 3 informal sources, you might include personal anecdotes, an example from class or a different class, the experience of a friend or family member, etc.

Your paper should be opinionated (though it is not *just* an opinion) and should take a clear stance on the issue. For your conclusion, please include how do you think this issue should be solved drawing on what you have learned over the semester.

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

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