Unit 2: The Politics of Social Science

Paper #2: 5-7 page Research Project

Due Dates (everything is due in class):
Monday, 10/30—Typed research topic
Wednesday, 11/8—Complete rough draft
Monday, 11/13—Portfolio #2

Grade Breakdown:
Research Topic: 5% second unit portfolio grade
Peer review sheets (2): 5%
Rough draft of bibliography and paper: 10%
Final annotated bibliography: 20%
Final paper: 60%

Assignment:
This research project includes two parts: an annotated bibliography and a research paper. First, identify a topic that interests you in the film or the Darwin, Simpson, Connor, Alperovitz, or Yusufali texts. You should pick a topic that is wide enough so that you can locate several sources related to it, but not a topic that is so wide that you could not possibly do justice to it in a 4-5 page paper. So in other words, if you were interested in learning more about the topic of “Natural Selection,” you would want to refine your topic a bit more, maybe by specifying “the history of theories about Natural Selection” or “documented cases of Natural Selection” or even “oppositions to Natural Selection.” Once you have settled on a topic, go to the library and locate 4-5 sources related to your topic. I would like you to locate 2 scholarly journal articles, 1 book, and 1-2 other sources (we will discuss in class what I mean by “scholarly journal article,” etc.). You may want to locate a few more sources than the required 4-5, since not all of these materials will end up being useful and I will be expecting you to incorporate 4-5 sources in your final paper. Once you’ve found a useful 4-5 sources, you will write an annotated bibliography for them (more on this later). Your annotated bibliography will be 1-2 pages long, with a paragraph entry for each of your sources. Finally, you will use your research to develop an argumentative thesis. This thesis will be the basis for your 4-5 page research paper.

In brief, this project asks you to:
1. Identify a research topic
2. Research and locate 4-5 sources related to your topic
3. Write an annotated bibliography for the 4-5 sources
4. Create an argumentative thesis based on your research and your own interest in the topic
5. Write a 4-5 page paper that integrates your research and your thesis, following APA style

Why this Assignment? This paper asks you to practice your college research skills, skills that will come in handy in other classes you will take at this institution. If you haven’t already acquainted yourself with UCSB’s library system, this project allows you to do so. If you’re already familiar with the library, this project gives you the chance to learn about other avenues of research and to practice the skills you already have. In a larger sense, this project asks you to investigate other ideas and, based on that investigation, to create your own argument. This is a crucial skill that is applicable not only to research papers, but any kind of argumentative project. We will make use of these skills on our close reading paper.

What I’m Looking For:
- A project that follows the details of this assignment and that contains both a 1-2 page annotated bibliography with 4-5 sources, and a 4-5 page research paper that integrates all of your sources.
- 12pt. Times New Roman Font and 1” margins.
- Logically ordered and organized paragraphs, including an introduction and a conclusion.
- An argumentative thesis.
- APA style in-text citations of all your quotes and references, as well as an APA Reference list.
- Correct grammar, spelling, and mechanics.