Sociology 205: Poverty, Race and Health
Poster Presentation Sessions

Dates: Tuesday, December 8 (Groups 1-8)
Thursday, December 10 (Groups 7-15)

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am (both days)

Place: Pond Rooms, Michigan Union

Overview

Across countries and throughout time, one social fact has remained true: economically disadvantaged individuals tend to have worse physical and mental health than persons in more affluent positions. In the United States, this association remains despite efforts over the past few decades to reduce inequalities in health. Racial inequalities in health also persist despite the best efforts of public health workers, educators, and scientists.

The poster presentation gives you an opportunity to explore some facet of the SES, race and health relationship in a group setting. You can choose to focus on any specific topic within this domain, but it must contain elements of health and either race and/or socioeconomic status. You can choose to do library research, that is, choose a topic to research and use books and articles to explore that topic. Alternatively, you may do original research, either in terms of data analysis, interviews, or other forms of data analysis and collection (e.g., examining the quality of tombstones in relation to the length of the person’s life represented by the tombstone).

Requirements

Based on your research, you will be required to create a poster presentation. Essentially, a poster presentation is a highly condensed version of a research paper that is sectioned off into different parts or elements. The presentation should fit on no more than two standard size poster boards. All of the information presented on the posters must be printed (i.e., not hand written). The easiest way to do this is to print elements of your presentation (e.g., title, group members, guiding question) on pieces of paper and then attach those to the poster boards. Depending upon the topic and method you choose to undertake, your presentation will have a variety of different elements. However, all presentations must have the following:

- title
- list of authors (group members)
- 200 word abstract describing the project
- list of questions guiding the project
- list of conclusions reached

If you choose to do original research, you will need to have elements that describe how you conducted your research as well as what you found. The key to a successful poster presentation is figuring out how to fit all of the necessary elements into the space available while maintaining legibility and clarity.
Grading

As is noted in the syllabus, the poster presentation counts as 20% of your grade. Of that 20%, 25% (or 5% of your overall grade) is based upon your participation in the poster session on the day you do not present. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade for the poster itself; consequently, it is to your advantage to spread the work as evenly as possible. Grades will be based upon:

• meeting the requirements listed above
• overall quality of the poster (e.g., writing quality, ease of reading, quality of presentation)
• overall quality of the research (e.g., well-defined research questions, comprehensive coverage of the issues)

Your grade will NOT be based on whether your group chose to do library research or original research. There are merits in both, and I will not distinguish between the two.

Contest

Not only will the posters be graded, but they will also be judged in terms of overall quality and merit of the research. In this judging process, I will place a higher regard on projects that have taken greater risks or have explored especially difficult topics. One winner will be chosen during each of the two poster sessions. Each member of the winning group will receive a prize to be announced at a later time (probably a gift certificate to a local bookstore).

Overlap with individual projects

If you are planning on doing the individual research paper, your group cannot do a project on a topic that is the same as your individual paper. The topic can be in the same general area, but they must be clearly distinguishable.