



SOC 1305 – Fall 2018
The Geography of the Sociological Imagination¹

The notion that we can personally define who we are, is based on a delusive understanding of human nature that divorces itself from the notion that identity is enmeshed in-and produced within-webs of social relations. Is this fair? how does this process of collective negotiation create boundaries of race and ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, religion, disability, or class? How has this system of relationships, connectedness, community, and faith benefited or limited your life chances? Is your time at Baylor a product of individual ambition, structural conditions ... or maybe both?

We can answer this question together. Have you ever thought about becoming a cartographer, mapping uncharted territories? For this final assignment, you will create a narrative and disciplinary bibliographic map. Maps are artistic, visual, and practical-they tell where you are, where you've been, and where you're going. Maps are an assemblage of discrete elements that can create new meaning by their connections to and juxtapositions with each other.

You have collected "things" in your time at Baylor: memories, understandings, friends, notions of the self, and other experiences. From an academic standpoint, you have also collected knowledge from a variety of sources in SOC 1305: essays, journal articles, book excerpts, and personal reflections, to name but a few. We developed a foundational understanding of the concepts, theories, and research methods used in sociology. This included a systemic study of the ecological structure of communities and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

In this assessment, you will create a map (poster-board) and written narrative that demonstrates the ability to think about your first semester with a sociological imagination, looking beyond oneself to see the way one's identity is made and unmade by the social contexts that you find yourself within. These experiences include your academic and scholarly experiences, as well as cultural and social experiences.

¹ This assignment has been adapted from a similar first-year activity, the 'Narrative and Bibliographic Map', used in the Capital Scholars Honors Program at the University of Illinois.

Part 1 - Collection of artifacts

Begin by re-collecting the experiences of this semester: go through your notes, papers, images, and items related to those experiences. Your photos or scribbled notes, a saved ticket from a show, a compelling or striking passage from the readings or statistics from your research, or even a journal entry or sketch all qualify as experience on what you have learned this semester. Consider how each of these items represents a "place" in your experience, as well as how all of these places are connected.

The second step should be to organize your materials, even physically arrange them, according to a unifying theme that you identify. You might try different arrangements and see what is most compelling, what best gives your audience an insight into your experiences, what you like most. Remember that the objective of this activity is to look beyond oneself to see the way one's identity is made and unmade by the social world. You are representing yourself in a visual and/or narrative medium. This part should be connected to other parts of your project in whatever manner you see fit to make a unified whole.

Part 2 - Building the bibliographic map

After you have identified the materials you will use, you should begin to build a bibliography. Each item you use in your map must have an associated narrative, which must be included in the bibliography. Each entry in your bibliography should have at least one narrative "note" of approximately 100 words (single spaced) associated with it, like an annotated bibliography, in which you demonstrate what each item is and what it means to you:

1. How has the item contributed to you and your sense of self?
2. Where does it belong, and why?
3. What does the item represent about what you have learned this semester about yourself and the social world in SOC 1305 – Introduction to Sociology?

(NOTE: These questions are just to get you started. You are not limited to answering just these questions.)

In writing about your map elements, you need to consider how course experiences - readings, lectures, in-class activities - have influenced you. Each of your secondary sources must also be included in your bibliography and must also have a note of approximately 100 words associated with it.

The goal is to use as much of the information you were exposed to this semester as possible. As the mapmaker/writer/artist, you have complete autonomy over what you select for your primary elements and your secondary sources, and you have complete autonomy over how those elements are used. But, you must meet the guidelines of the assignment (see below).

When the writing is completed, reconsider the organization of your elements and how you want people to read (maybe things need to be moved around a bit); revise your writing and reconsider.

When you are ready, build your map of writing and elements. Again, consider how you want your audience to follow your path with you. Build your map by considering what you want to communicate and to whom you are communicating.

Once you have your map "laid out," you need to cite the map as a whole and write about what the map means (another 250 words or so):

1. Why did you place these items in your map?
2. Why did you arrange your map elements in this way?
3. What happens outside the visible area of your map?
4. How does the collection reflect who you have become as an undergraduate student at Baylor?
5. How does that underlying knowledge of complexity contribute to your understanding of yourself as a thinker of the Sociological Imagination?

(NOTE: Again, these questions are not intended to limit you.)

Part 3 – Presentation of map

This assessment has a requirement that you will share your built map of the sociological imagination; this will take place on Monday, December 3rd, 2018 from 9:05-9:55am at a space on campus to be determined. You will need to be prepared to answer questions from faculty, your peers, and other guests. Additional information will follow.

Guidelines

Clearly, this isn't a final "essay" in the traditional sense. So, here are the rules:

1. Collect at least five elements that represent what you have learned about yourself this semester.
2. Collect at least five other sources, which you also represent visually, that have influenced your understanding or use of the primary elements. These other sources should be connected to the sources you collected in #1.
3. Build your bibliography with a minimum of ELEVEN entries (five primary elements, five secondary sources, and one entry for the map, which must have a title).
4. Write a minimum of one note of approximately 100 words on each of the ten (minimum) total sources.
5. Write a note of approximately 250 words on the collection as a whole.
6. Build your map.
7. Make a name plate - include your name and the title of your work.

Assignment	0 points – Content is minimal	12.5 points – Includes essential information about sociology but little self-reflection	25 points - Covers sociology in depth, with details and examples with their personal experiences. Offers clear foundational knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories, and research methods used in sociology.
Creativity	0 points - Student follows a set of directions to complete the project, but did not explore new ways to apply the Sociological Imagination to their personal experiences	10 points - Student project is explored and expresses the Sociological Imagination in an original way.	20 points - Student uses a create approach to analyze social structure, and important classifications that determine everyday experiences are socially constructed and thus change across space and over time.
Visuals	0 points – Student used no visuals	5 points - Student occasionally used visuals that rarely support text and presentation, or less than ten visuals used.	10 points - Student used at least ten visuals to reinforce text and presentation.
Learning	0 points - Student did not attempt any new learning, synthesis, or methodology they were not already initially comfortable with.	10 points - Student attempts one new avenue of learning for their project, but may not have been successful in an implementation of the Sociological Imagination.	20 points - Student offers an application of the Sociological Imagination, with two or more examples, that illustrate an understanding of personal experiences and narratives in a sociological context.
Mechanics	0 points - Student's presentation had four or more spelling errors and/or grammatical errors	2.5 points - Presentation had no more than two misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	5 points - Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.
Community	0 points - Student does not attempt to share their learning.	15 points - Student attempts to share their learning, but without adequate explanation or reflection.	30 points - Student shares their project and learning with an authentic community in a formal manner.
Bibliography	0 points - Student did not turn in written bibliography		30 points – Student turned in written bibliography
			150 pts