

There are three parts to this first individual assessment, which is 30% of the total, in which you should undertake a research study into an issue of your choice in the field using several of the analytical frameworks covered in the course and a review of research in the area. The second part is a short reflective essay (one page approx) on what you have learned from the process and how it has contributed to your personal development. The deadline is Week 10, Tuesday at 3:00 pm and this time has been chosen to occur before the main assessment choke points kick in.

You should hand in a hard copy to the department secretary or leave your essay in the drop box in the corridor outside HG301a. There is a maximum word limit of 2,500 (+/- 10%) for this assignment and 10% will be deducted for those exceeding it. You must reference your work appropriately and provide a bibliography following the conventions. It is your responsibility to provide an accurate word count at the end of the assignment.

The selected topic must of course be current and the theoretical framework/s employed be suitable tools for their analysis and evaluation as well as, *inter alia*, yielding practical insights of benefit to disciplinary practitioners both professional and academic.

All work must be word-processed on A4 paper, with pages numbered, a proper apparatus of citation, in Arial 11 font, double-spaced and employing a front cover sheet with the following:

- Student name (family name in CAPITALS)
- Student number & module number
- Date
- Tutor & Seminar Set
- Signed to the effect that the work follows academic conduct guidelines

NB substantiated critical engagement is expected at this level of study! It is the non plus ultra of academic literacy and your critique needs to show your competence in this element in order to achieve the transferable disciplinary skills target learning outcomes (see feedback sheet to get a firm handle on these). You do not have to question the basis of the selected frameworks in the manner of Newsnight for instance, but rather, their usefulness in practice while supporting your arguments with sound evidence.

It goes without saying that the ultimate aim of your report will be to provide a set of recommendations to guide practice (and possibly future researchers) and so your report will have to exhibit a clear logical progression from theory to practice in the 'real world' and exhibit how you have drawn on a wide range of sources in the literature and applied your knowledge in the observation of practice to come up with the set of recommendations. Hence your case study may need to include several elements, with as well as an executive summary, a literature review (albeit brief as this is a practice-based assignment!), a main body and a conclusion with the recommendations. But the contents could vary – as long as you answer the question and each of the sections is valid. A list of references is a requirement.

Remember that your research report cannot be accepted after the deadline without a Mitigating Circumstances form completed. See Appendix 3 in the Module handbook for details on this.

DO NOT staple your work but use a paper clip to collate. **DO NOT** put individual pages in plastic wallets or place them in a binder. Submit Part B in the appendices to Part A.

You MUST hand in an electronic copy to Turnitin on the VLE. Your tutor will show you how to do this in the Week 6 lecture). **Cheating will NOT be tolerated** and will be subject to ACO procedures.

I am only too happy to oblige if anyone has any queries. Please see my office hours as provided on my PIP page and email me at least 3 days in advance to book an appointment.