**FINAL PAPER**

This paper requires that students develop a research-based paper addressing a specific social issue or social problem. Students are to select a social issue/social problem that is of particular interest to them. All papers should be double-spaced, at least 12 point font, have a minimum of eight (8) research sources, use APA format for in text citations (no footnotes), and be a minimum of six (6) pages long (maximum of 12 pages). The paper should contain the following components *(use of these specific subheadings is required)*:

**Social Issue/Social Problem:** Identify the social issue/social problem you will be addressing.

**Introduction** - A brief overview of the social issue/social problem selected. This section should address the question as to why this is an important issue, definition of the issue, and what will be discussed throughout the remainder of the paper.

**History & Context** – Provide historical and factually related information and/or characteristics of the issue. Be sure to cite when/where appropriate from your research.

**Description of Impact:** Description and discussion of the issue regarding *who* it impacts and in what ways. Here you might include various demographic information as well as elaboration on characteristics of this population(s) as stated in the literature.

**Programs & Policy:** Identification and discussion of local, regional, national, and/or international programs/organizations and existing policy (if appropriate you may want to also past policy and/or policy that may currently be in the works) that exist to address this social issue locally. Be sure to cite when/where appropriate from your research.

**Critical Analysis:** Address the strengths and limitations/drawbacks of the existing programs, policy, and organizations that seek to address this issue (referencing to the previous section). Also include here a discussion regarding how you individually and how organizations in the local community and/or beyond, as well as policy should/could address the issue.

**Integrative Summary:** of components II through VI of the paper.

**Bibliography:** Provide a bibliography of all resources referenced to in the paper using APA format.

Finally, class presentation of the paper requires that each student prepare a 5 - 10 minute formal presentation of highlights and major learning resulting from their research efforts.