

PS336
Psychology, Society, & Human Values

Research Paper (40%)

Indicative word count: 2,500 (c. 8 pages)

Description: A brief paper written on a topic selected from a list provided.

Due date: **13 April 2012**

Instructions: Please write a paper according to any one of the topics listed overleaf. Prepare your paper using **Microsoft Word**, with Times New Roman font (size 12), double-spaced text, and the default margins. Save your file using your Student ID number as part of the file name, as per the following example:

01234567_CommentPaper.doc

Please do not include your name in the text of your paper. This is necessary to preserve the anonymity of your work when it is being marked.

Then submit your file via Blackboard. (Please note that you are responsible for submitting your paper by the deadline. Blackboard will record the submission time and add a time-stamp to your file.)

You are asked to bear the following points in mind:

- Please be sure to keep a copy of all files you submit. In the very unlikely event that a submitted piece of work is electronically misplaced or that a dispute emerges as to whether or not a piece of work was originally submitted, the student will be responsible for supplying a copy of the submission on request.
- The School of Psychology operates a uniform policy regarding the late submission of assignments. All work submitted late will attract a reduced mark, except in particularly extenuating circumstances. The School has decided upon a uniform deduction of 10% of marks per day overdue.
- The system of applying a deduction on work submitted late is not intended to disadvantage students who encounter genuinely problematic circumstances that interfere with their ability to meet deadlines. Should students experience such circumstances, they are requested to notify the School at the earliest possible opportunity (e.g., in advance if possible) so that a fair allowance can be made.
- Students are advised to consult their Psychology *Student Guide*, or the School of Psychology webpage, for information regarding the School's policy on plagiarism. Please be aware that the electronic submission of assignments enables the University to screen it using plagiarism detection software.

Note: A 'research paper' requires you to offer a evidence-based view based on scrutiny of the scholarly literature in relevant areas. As well as relaying the content of relevant empirical sources, a research paper requires critical engagement with, and evaluation of, the material.

It is anticipated that a typical research paper will cite well over 10 references. Further, references will be predominantly (if not entirely) drawn from the peer-reviewed academic literature (i.e., journal articles and academic texts), especially literature reporting the findings of empirical research studies.

Please select one of the following topics for your paper.

1. Is personal morality the result of 'nature' or 'nurture'?
2. Do groups of people differ genetically in their average talents?
3. Do groups of people differ genetically in their average temperaments?
4. Should children be prevented from playing violent video games?
5. Should monogamy be rewarded?
6. Is there a need for 'positive psychology'?
7. What family structure, if any, should be promoted or supported by public policy?
8. Does religion promote or inhibit the mental health of adherents?
9. Should a portion of the healthcare budget be used to fund research in cognitive neuroscience?
10. Does 'volunteerism' constitute generosity?