

2014 Human Relations Senior Assessment Comprehensive Portfolio Project

Graduating CAS seniors are required to complete a senior assessment – a comprehensive examination (“senior comp”), oral examination, written thesis, or some other comprehensive project to demonstrate whether they have learned and retained the information necessary to move to the next career or educational step in their lives.

Faculty teaching in the Human Relations Program at Trinity University have determined that Human Relations majors will be assessed through a comprehensive portfolio project. The Portfolio is due by 5:00 p.m. on **MAY 2, 2014**. The portfolio is to be turned in to the Chair of Human Relations, Dr. Debbie Van Camp, or any of the faculty listed below.

In order to graduate in May, you must submit the portfolio by MAY 2, 2014.

Portfolios assess the following learning outcomes:

- 1) Knowledge of sociological and psychological facts, concepts and principles
- 2) Critical thinking, skills in integration and synthesis, and self-reflective abilities
- 3) Integration of psychological and sociological perspectives in addressing topics

The purpose of the portfolio method of evaluation is to raise student consciousness of the learning experience and to actively engage students in the assessment process. In a very real sense, the portfolio represents a student’s *self-assessment* of her own academic performance. This project should represent a capstone of your academic experience, and your best work. **Projects are evaluated by Human Relations faculty and are graded “pass”, “fail”, or “distinction”.**

A description of the portfolio’s contents and guidelines for the student self-examination follow. Please make two copies of your portfolio; one copy will be submitted to the chair of the Human Relations Program (Dr. Roberta Goldberg) or any other Human Relations faculty on MAY 2, 2014 and you should retain the other copy (or secure electronic file) as a back-up. If you do not have access to a SECURE electronic file, MAKE A BACK-UP COPY. The Human Relations Chair is responsible for managing the portfolio process. Questions regarding the portfolio process and due dates should be directed to the Chair (ext. 9224) or any other Human Relations faculty member:

Dr. Roberta Goldberg (x9224)
Dr. Roxana Moayed (x9266)
Dr. Carlota Ocampo (x9209)
Dr. Christopher Bishop

Dr. Konia Kollhlon (x9219)
Dr. Deborah O’Brien (x9272)
Dr. Stacey Baugh
Dr. Debbie Van Camp

Guidelines for Completing Portfolio Sections

The finished portfolio will contain three sections:

- 1) An evaluation of past course work
- 2) An integrative and critical essay addressing a current topic from both a psychological and a sociological perspective
- 3) A narrative summary of your experience as a Human Relations major

I. EVALUATION OF PAST COURSE WORK

For this section, you must assemble TWO papers of reasonable length (at least 8-10 pages) you have written while in college. One should be a SOCIOLOGY paper and one should be a PSYCHOLOGY paper. You may select term papers, critical analyses or essays, literature reviews, research reports, book reviews, or any other appropriate written work. If you feel that you will have trouble selecting the papers, please consult the Human Relations Chair (Dr. Debbie Van Camp) to determine appropriate alternate work.

FOR EACH PAPER YOU MUST:

- A) Briefly summarize the basic ideas presented
- B) Critique your ideas. Discuss the paper's analytical strengths and weaknesses, from your new vantage point as a graduating senior. Have your ideas changed or evolved? What psychological and sociological constructs, theories or ideas have you learned or formed since writing these papers that could provide new insights on the phenomena you discuss? If there is more than one theory that could describe or explain a particular phenomenon or observation, compare and contrast the theories in your evaluation. MAKE SURE TO CITE ALL OUTSIDE SOURCES USING APA STYLE.

If the instructor provided analytical feedback, discuss the feedback. Was it helpful in the learning process? If no feedback was provided, what might the instructor have said in critiquing the paper?

- C) For the sociology paper, select at LEAST two of the following social categories not already covered in your paper. Apply these concepts to demonstrate a fuller understanding of the topic (again, USE PROPER CITATION STYLE):

Social class	Age
Ethnicity/race	Religion
Gender	Sexual orientation

D) For the psychology paper, choose at LEAST two of the following constructs relevant to your paper. Define/explain the constructs and indicate how they impact your topic. CITE YOUR SOURCES:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nature/nurture | Role of individual differences |
| Critical period | Ambiguity/probability/indeterminacy |
| Attribution | Social learning/modeling |
| Gender | Biological/genetic influences |
| | Correlation vs. causation |

For both the psychology and the sociology paper, you should write a *minimum* of four pages per paper evaluated, making up eight pages *minimum* for this section. You should assemble your portfolio so that it contains a copy of each original paper, with the grade of the paper and the instructor's comments if possible, and your four-page *minimum* evaluative summaries. It should be clear to the reviewer which evaluative summary belongs with which paper, which course the paper was from, the semester the paper was written, and who the instructor was.

II. ANALYTICAL ESSAY INTEGRATING SOCIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON A CURRENT TOPIC

Please select **ONE** of the following questions on a current event, topic or issue, and write an original essay examining the psychological and sociological frameworks, constructs or concepts used to describe, explain, analyze and critique the causes, manifestation, and consequences of the issue or event. The strongest essays will attempt to INTEGRATE sociological and psychological perspectives in the analysis. The essay should be FOUR PAGES MINIMUM, with PROPER CITATIONS.

A) Health care is a controversial topic in the U.S. now. Using at least two psychological concepts, discuss the impact of health care on individuals. (Some examples of concepts: Individual differences, role of nature (genetics) vs. nurture (environment), critical period). Do you think functional theory or conflict theory does a better job of explaining the health care problems we face? Explain.

B) Substance abuse (i.e. alcohol, crack cocaine, marijuana, inhalants, etc.) is a major problem in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Using psychological and sociological perspectives, discuss reasons/factors/phenomena that may contribute to the development of a substance abuse problem(s). How does substance abuse impact communities, and what are some social/community responses (i.e., through the criminal justice system?)

C) A number of children today are being raised by same-sex parents. Compare and contrast the stress and pressures faced by parents and children in these families with the stress and pressures faced by families with opposite-sex parents. Be sure to address both psychological and sociological issues and variables in addressing this question.

D) Scientists around the world are warning of an impending environmental crisis created by human activity. The most serious problem associated with the environment is climate change, also known as global warming. It is predicted that unless we can seriously limit CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere (caused by fossil fuels like oil) the temperatures on earth will increase significantly enough to cause floods, droughts, severe storms, permanent displacement of people from coastal areas, and loss of food and water. What psychological factors contribute to our understanding of the significance of the crisis and individuals' willingness to change their behavior to help solve it? Use the sociological imagination to evaluate your experience with this crisis in relation to the global problem. Be specific. Will some groups suffer more than others from this crisis? Explain.

III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A HUMAN RELATIONS MAJOR

This narrative summary of your tenure as a Human Relations major is your opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned during your academic experience by tying your college experience to your personal academic growth and the development of your analytical and critical thinking processes. Refer back to the three learning outcomes listed on page one as you prepare your narrative, and connect what you have learned to your future career, educational, service or personal growth goals. Imaging that you are writing a statement of purpose for a new promotion, career move or graduation program. Your thesis should present your Human Relations perspectives, constructed from what you have learned, and their practical applications in your career or academic life. In fact, your final product could be a writing sample appropriate for a professional application.

Use some of the following questions to construct your narrative:

- A) Why did you select Human Relations as your major?
- B) What specific areas have you focused on? Which topics attract you?
- C) Describe highlights of your learning experience as a Human Relations major in specific areas of psychology and sociology.
- D) What have you gained from the major academically? Discuss theories and concepts of interest to you. CITE YOUR SOURCES.
- E) How does Human Relations relate to other courses taken outside your major?
- F) How will the major contribute to your future professional or academic life? What about family life, friendships, community service, civic life, or other activities?
- G) What do you think about the Human Relations Program overall at Trinity University? What are strengths and weaknesses of the program? Please do not hesitate to include any suggestions or recommendations.

Section III should cover a minimum of SIX PAGES; new writings in your portfolio should total at LEAST EIGHTEEN PAGES (or more). Please organize your work appropriately and neatly in a portfolio binder, such as a three-ring binder, with dividers.



HUMR SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE PORTFOLIO EVALUATION FORM

Please use the following 5-point scale in evaluating the portfolios. Add comments to elaborate:

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
1	2	3	4	5

STUDENT NAME: _____

I. EVALUATION OF PAST COURSE WORK:

a. Sociology Paper

i. Ability to critically evaluate the paper's strengths & weaknesses: 1 2 3 4 5

ii. Ability to link papers to other sociology concepts: 1 2 3 4 5

b. Psychology Paper

i. Ability to critically evaluate the paper's strengths & weaknesses: 1 2 3 4 5

ii. Ability to link papers to other psychology concepts: 1 2 3 4 5

II. ANALYTICAL ESSAY INTEGRATING PSYCH AND SOC PERSPECTIVES:

a. Ability to apply psychological constructs to current question: 1 2 3 4 5

b. Ability to apply sociological constructs to current question: 1 2 3 4 5

c. Ability to INTEGRATE PSYCH and SOC perspectives: 1 2 3 4 5

d. Originality, organization, style & grammar: 1 2 3 4 5

III. EVALUATION OF HUMR "CAREER" ESSAY:

a. Ability to evaluate the HUMR major: 1 2 3 4 5

b. Ability to integrate PSYCH and SOC concepts/concepts from other disciplines:
1 2 3 4 5

c. Ability to link personal growth to academic/intellectual knowledge: 1 2 3 4 5

d. Organization, style & grammar: 1 2 3 4 5

IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (on Back):

RECOMMENDED GRADE: Distinction Strong Pass Pass Weak Pass Fail

EVALUATOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____