

**SOC150: Introduction to Sociology  
Spring '15 @ CSUN w/ Ellis Godard**

**Extra Credit Opportunity #1: Institutions in Your Life**

**General:** Sociologically reflect on the role of institutions in your life in order to exercise a key component of what Mills called "the sociological imagination", connecting individual lives to a larger society.

1. **Select two (and only two) of the eight institutions in the syllabus.**
  - Family, Educational, Economic, Political, Religious, Legal, Media, and Scientific
  - Draw on related notes and readings provided via Moodle, and beyond
  
2. **Write a paper which does two key things:**
  - **Describe each institution using the 3 "major perspectives" in Sociology**
    - i. Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Interactionism
  - **Compare the institutions you selected as follows:**
    - i. Which seems most important, from each of the three major perspectives?
    - ii. Are the perspectives *consistent* in which they suggest is more important?
    - iii. What role, if any, does each institution play in *your life*?
    - iv. Do any of the perspective's accounts resonant with your *personal* experience about the relative importance of these institutions?
  
3. **Submit your analysis, of between two and four full pages** (typed, double-spaced, 11-point font, 1" margins, no kerning or other weird tricks) sociologically addressing both the setting and the topic selected. This **MUST** be submitted via the TurnItIn link available on Moodle, and will NOT be accepted late.
  
4. I will add *up to* 1% to your final semester grade, based on the clarity and completeness of your answers, and on the degree of sociological acumen in your comparisons.