

Project #1
Cross-Cultural Analysis:
Thinking Sociologically About Technology

Overview

The first project is a cross-cultural analysis exploring values and the development and impact of a particular technology. You will be creating and delivering a presentation to the class (and answering questions about your research). You will also turn in your slideshow presentation (e.g. Powerpoint, Prezi) and accompanying notes.

This project will use the World Values survey database for your exploration of countries' values. Select a country that has different values regarding technology compared to the United States. Why might their values on technology differ? How (and to what extent) do their values, culture, social world and conditions, and technological status relate to and shape one another?

Explore the countries values' in other areas outside technology – how do they compare? Is there anything about the country's historical relationship with technology that could lead to different values? Do the values reflect or shape current divergent empirical situations the countries face (or vice versa)? How do the countries differ in terms of their current use of technology? Explore a particular technology that differs between the two countries (either in its form, application, prevalence, distribution of use, impacts, etc.).

Your end result will be a 5-minute presentation that presents your comparative exploration and analysis. Your presentation should be sociologically rigorous and provide rich, up-to-date, and correct evidence that offer insights into the answer(s) to your research question. You must either do a slideshow presentation or request to do something somewhat similar or equivalent (e.g. a Rich Media Project, a poster, etc.). There is not a traditional paper associated with the final version of this first project.

Make sure to explicitly discuss the following concepts, using a comparative analysis:

- Who or what has agency to make social and/or technological change in both countries?
- Did your research provide evidence that technology and technological change is socially shaped? If so, in what context and manner?
- Did your research provide evidence that the social world is technologically shaped? If so, in what context and manner?
- What is the relationship between culture and technology / technological change?

Tutoring

The Center for Academic Planning & Support (CAPS) has resources to assist you with developing and refining the academic skills necessary to be successful in this class and with this project. You can contact them at (603) 427-7623 or cdespres@ccsnh.edu or fill out this online form: <http://greatbay.edu/student-services/tutoring/request-appointment>

Project #1 is worth 22.5% of your total course grade.

Due Date	Assignment	% of Course Grade
11:59pm, Wed., July 1	A. Proposal	1%
8am, Mon., July 6	B. Data Findings and Source List	1%
8am, Wed., July 8	C. Pre-writing Part One	1%
11:59pm, Thurs., July 9	D. Feedback response plan	0.5%
8am, Mon., July 13	E. Pre-writing Part Two	1%
8am Tues., July 14	F. Feedback response plan	0.5%
8am on Wed., July 15	G. Draft presentation	1%
11:59pm, Fri., July 16*	H. Feedback response plan*	0.5%
8am on Mon., July 20	I. Project #1 Final Version (Due via BB + class presentations)	15%
8am on Wed., July 22	J. Project #1 reflection	1%

*Missing from printed syllabi

Criteria	Proficient
Content	Presenter demonstrates full grasp of the material and is interesting and engaging. Introduction is compelling and prepares class for presentation. Research question is clearly identified. Argument is effectively presented. All content is pertinent to the presentation and aids in class's understanding. There is an obvious conclusion to the presentation. Project guidelines were followed.
Sociological Perspective & Relevance	Demonstrates deep understanding of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is clear and consistently reinforced throughout. Guiding questions for project are explicitly addressed, evidence is provided to support the presenter's argument, and an explicit connection is made between the evidence and the argument.
Organization	Well-organized in a logical sequence. Easy to follow. Presentation time departs from 5 minutes by less than 1 minute.
Delivery	Audible and articulate. Limited use of filler words (e.g. umm, like, etc.). Presentation appears well rehearsed. Presenter is speaking, not reading from slideshow or notes. Good pacing (not too slow or rushed). Eye contact is made. No gum or other distractions. Presenter effectively responds to questions.
Slideshow	Slides do not contain too much information or text. Slideshow is clean and simple, not distracting, informative, engaging, and adds value to the presentation. Use of graphs, pictures, figures, etc. effectively support the presentation. Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout. Provides all needed citations and references.

Project #1 A. Project #1 Proposal:

1. What is the non-U.S. country you are researching? Give a very brief overview of this country. Make sure to write out your reference(s) for this information.
2. Based on the World Values Survey data, list one way the two countries differ in their values regarding technology:
3. Based on the World Values Survey data, list one comparison of the two countries values that does not directly address technology.
4. What is one way the two countries differ in their empirical situations outside of technology? Make sure to write out your reference(s) for this information.
5. What is one way the two countries differ in their empirical situations regarding technology? Make sure to write out your reference(s) for this information.

Project #1: B. Data Findings and Source List:

1. Write a research question about technological difference between the two countries you are investigating. Your research question is the specific sociological question you hope to answer. Your research question should be a specific and focused question that you are interested in investigating.

2. World Value Survey data

2a. What rich, up-to-date, correct data did you find that is most relevant to your research question?

2b. What conclusions can you make from this data? What insights does it provide into your research question?

2c. Why does this data matter?

2d. What lines of further research does your data suggest?

3. Technology Research

3a. What specific technology will you be investigating?

3b. List the information for at least two publications that have information about your technology as it relates to the countries you are researching. Your sources must be relevant to your research question. You must at minimum perform a search for academic articles via the GBCC Library website, but you are not required to use a scholarly article.

Project #1: C. Pre-Writing Part One

Find the most relevant, pivotal, and interesting literature that addresses your research question. You need to find at least two publications.

List your research question.

For each publication,

- 1) List the relevant reference details for your publication.
- 2) Write at least one paragraph summarizing the author's argument as it pertains to your research question. This summary should demonstrate a careful reading of the publication and clear understanding of the source content, argument, and relevance.
- 3) Evaluate the publication. Is it credible? Why or why not? Is it useful in helping you answer or gain insight into your research question? How does it relate to the other publication(s) you are using for this project? What are the implications of this publication for your research question?

Project #1: D. Feedback response plan

Based on peer and instructor feedback, as well as your own self-reflections, what plans do you have to ensure you have sufficient well-analyzed library research to answer your research question and sufficient well-analyzed World Values Survey to provide additional insight into your research question?

Portions of Project overview reproduced

Project #1 E Pre-writing Part Two

1. List your research question
2. Answer the following questions in relation to your research question:
 - a) Who or what has agency to make social and/or technological change in both countries?
 - b) Did your research provide evidence that technology and technological change is socially shaped? If so, in what context and manner?
 - c) Did your research provide evidence that the social world is technologically shaped? If so, in what context and manner?
 - d) What is the relationship between culture and technology / technological change?
3. Outline your slideshow presentation using the format below. The title does not need to be the actual title you will use, it can be a topical category (e.g. Introduction) or a draft title. The description only need be one or two sentences and can alternatively be a bulleted list.

Slide 1: Title

Description

Slide 2: Title

Description

etc.

Project #1 F: Feedback response plan

Based on peer and instructor feedback, as well as your own self-reflections, what plans do you have to ensure your final project proficiently meets the grading criteria as outlined in the project overview (reproduced below)?

(Project overview reproduced)

Project #1: G. Draft Project

(Project overview reproduced)

Project #1 G: Feedback response plan

Based on peer and instructor feedback, as well as your own self-reflections, what did you change from your draft presentation to your final presentation to ensure your final project proficiently meets the grading criteria as outlined in the project overview?

Project #1: Final Version of Project

(Overview reproduced)

Project #1 Reflection

A. Submit this assignment via Blackboard by 8am on Wednesday, July 22.

B. Evaluate your project. Using the table below, in the third column, give yourself an A, B, C, D, or F based on the following performance levels.

Grade	Performance Level
A	Proficient
B	Satisfactory
C	Approaching Competence
D or F	Unacceptable

Then write at least one sentence explaining why you rated your project at that performance level

Criteria	Proficient	Your Self-Rating and Feedback
Content	Presenter demonstrates full grasp of the material and is interesting and engaging. Introduction is compelling and prepares class for presentation. Research question is clearly identified. Argument is effectively presented. All content is pertinent to the presentation and aids in class's understanding. There is an obvious conclusion to the presentation. Project guidelines were followed.	
Sociological Perspective & Relevance	Demonstrates deep understanding of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is clear and consistently reinforced throughout. Guiding questions for project are explicitly addressed, evidence is provided to support the presenter's argument, and an explicit connection is made between the evidence and the argument.	
Organization	Well-organized in a logical sequence. Easy to follow. Presentation time departs from 5 minutes by less than 1 minute.	
Delivery	Audible and articulate. Limited use of filler words (e.g. umm, like, etc.). Presentation appears well rehearsed. Presenter is speaking, not reading from slideshow or notes. Good pacing (not too slow or rushed). Eye contact is made. No gum or other distractions. Presenter effectively responds to questions.	

Slideshow	Slides do not contain too much information or text. Slideshow is clean and simple, not distracting, informative, engaging, and adds value to the presentation. Use of graphs, pictures, figures, etc. effectively support the presentation. Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout. Provides all needed citations and references.	
Overall	The project demonstrated overall proficiency in content, sociological perspective and relevance, organization, delivery, and regarding the slideshow.	

C. Answer the following questions:

1. What went well regarding your project?
2. Are there ways you can build on these strengths for your next project?
3. What could have gone better?
4. How can you improve these “growing edges” for your next project?
5. How easy or difficult did you find completing this project? How much effort did you put into the project?
6. What feedback do you have about the project assignment and/or project?