**Precis, Part I**

*SOC 4881 – Population Studies Research Practicum*

**DUE**

*January 30*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Complete this assignment on your own.

A “precis” is a short, concise summary of a research article. The precis should contain all of the main ideas, arguments, and facts of the full-length article, such that someone could read the precis and get all of the main points of the article itself. Precis are written in your own words, not by copying key passages from the article. Paraphrase! For this assignment, you will write a precis for each of two articles. See the “Course Readings” section of the course website to obtain the two readings. Each precis should be no more than 300 words.

How to write each precis:

1. **CITATION**: At the top of the page, include the full bibliographic citation, including the authors’ names, year of publication, journal of publication, issue, and page numbers. (If it’s not a journal article, provide necessary information to locate the paper elsewhere.)
2. **TOPIC/QUESTIONS/ARGUMENT**: Summarize the basic topic of the article. What is it about? What are the specific research questions? Why do the authors say this topic and these questions are important and worth studying? What specific limitations or problems with prior research do the authors identify? How do they say their work builds on or improves upon prior research? What theories do the authors use to develop hypotheses about what they will find?
3. **DATA/METHODS**: What data do the authors use? Where do the data come from? Do they use a sample, or the whole population? If a sample, how was the sample drawn, how many people are in it, and is it representative of the population? How do they measure all the key concepts, including the main independent and dependent variables? What kind of analyses do the authors conduct?
4. **RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS**: What are the answers to the authors’ specific research questions? Why do the authors say their results are important? What are the main implications of the authors’ findings for theory and/or for the “real world?” What limitations or problems with their own research do the authors identify?

Save each precis in its own file—that is, don’t put multiple precis into one file—and name them as follows: “Author Last Name – Year – Your Last Name.docx.” So, for example, if you are writing a precis for Hacker 1999 and your last name is Smith, then name the file:

“Hacker – 1999 – Smith.docx.”

When you are done, upload both precis to Canvas.

**GRADING**

This assignment is worth a total of 4 points — 2 points for each precis.

To get full credit, your precis will need to be brief (300 words or fewer), complete (addressing all of the points above), and accurate (correctly summarize what is in the article).

You will lose credit to the extent that your precis is too long, incomplete, or inaccurate.

Assignments turned in up to 48 hours late will receive a maximum of half credit; those turned in beyond 48 hours late will not be accepted.