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**Short Thought Assignment Instructions: 50 Points**

**Evolution and Behavior, Psych 160, Fall 2021**

This is a critical thinking exercise meaning that students will need to critically evaluate one of the papers presented below (also located on our BB site). You must use the papers I’ve provided, as well as a minimum of two additional sources. These sources, what you have learned in class, as well as your personal experience, should help you to formulate your own ideas and opinions. As per the title of this assignment, I am particularly interested in your thoughts and critical evaluation of these topics. This is a written assignment, where you are asked to use words (max of 400) to clarify your thoughts. However, how you display these words is up to you.

**Step 1: Choose one of the two papers below to read carefully**For class this week you will need to read two papers. Please read both of these articles, but select one to focus on for this short thought assignment. You’re welcome to use the other as one of your two sources.

# The history and impact of women in animal behaviour and the ABS: a North American perspective by Dr. Tang-Martinez

# Diversity and inclusion activisms in animal behaviour and the ABS: a historical view from the U.S.A. by Dr. Lee

**Step 2: I’ve picked my paper, now what?**

This is a thought assignment. This means that you will need to critically evaluate your selected paper. You must use one of the papers and or articles I’ve provided, as well as a minimum of two additional sources (the paper you do not select can count as one of these two sources although I encourage you to look for material beyond what I’ve curated). These sources, as well as what you have learned in class, should help you to formulate your own ideas and opinions. As per the title of this assignment, I am particularly interested in your thoughts and critical evaluation of the topic at hand.

Please write 400 words, using a clear font that is 12 point in size. You may display these words in any way you like. While traditionally I have required students to submit a paper, I would like for us to consider other creative ways in which to express ourselves. This means that you could write your thoughts as a paper, poem, rap, play, speech, personal essay, novella, blog post, Twitter/Facebook thread, journal entry written by one of the people you’ve learned about, or more. If something else comes to mind, feel free to e-mail me to discuss your idea.

Regardless of the written form, this assignment must be submitted through Blackboard. Note that anything written beyond 400 words will not be read.

Please address the following 4 prompts when drafting your Short Thought Assignment:

1. What are your preliminary thoughts about the material being presented? Are you surprised to hear about the disparities in Animal Behavior, why or why not?
2. Pick the name of three researchers highlighted in the paper. Spend some time thinking about their contributions. Did we hear them mentioned in class? Where would/should they be mentioned? Take a look at the course overview and identify where their work should be highlighted.
3. These two papers are both newly published, from June 2020. Do you think these issues are still present today? For guidance, check out [this article](https://science-sciencemag-org.proxy.wexler.hunter.cuny.edu/content/sci/370/6516/530.full.pdf) published in Science in October. Do you see the authors of the other two papers cited here in this paper? Is this a problem? Do citations matter? If you cannot access the paper via the link, it is also posted within Unit 10 on Blackboard. Please note that while you should cite this paper if you refer to it, it cannot be included as one of your two sources you are required to find.
4. Finally, in tying together these issues, how can we promote inclusion and diversity within the field, our classroom, animal behavior research, and more? If it helps, think about what YOU would like to see in our classroom (and in other classrooms!)!

**Step 3: Where to find sources?**

You will need to locate a minimum of two additional sources for this assignment. I am

happy for you to use articles or peer-reviewed sources. If you would like to search for these,

please use the following instructions.

1. Type in the topic you’re interested in in Google scholar. If you find an article here but can’t get the PDF of it, go to the hunter library website and see if you can then get it through Hunter.
2. Or, go to the Hunter College library website: <http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/>
   1. Once here, you can look by database, such as – JSTOR, BIOSIS, etc. Type in topics of interest, and it will give you lists of articles.
   2. You can also look by Journal Title: Once here, click on a Journal, and browse through each installment until you find an article of interest. Some Journals that you could look in include (but are not limited to): Journal of Human Evolution, Human Evolution, Ethology, Ethology and Sociobiology, Journal of Ethology
3. I am also happy for you to use appropriate non-peer reviewed sources. If you include a non-peer reviewed source please use your best judgement to evaluate its authenticity. I would prefer you use validated sources such as New York Times, Scientific American, APA, Psychology Today to name a few. I know we all love Wikipedia, but please do not cite it. If you decide to review information on Wikipedia, you will note that they reference and cite where they have obtained their information. Please use these references to locate the original peer-reviewed or non-peer reviewed article and evaluate its validity. Please do not cite blog posts from members of the general public without vetting their credentials.

**Step 4: Assignment Criteria**

In order to successfully obtain full points in this assignment you must address the 4 prompting questions fully (see rubric for grade breakdown). You will also need to locate a minimum of two sources (although you may find that you use more). I am happy for you to use articles or peer-reviewed sources or appropriate non-peer reviewed sources. If you include a non-peer reviewed source please use your best judgement to evaluate its authenticity. If you have questions regarding a source’s validity, please e-mail me.

You must cite your sources appropriately. You may use whatever format you’d like (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) however, you must use it consistently throughout the assignment. Simply including a link will not count as a proper citation of sources. You can use videos from YouTube, or include reference to various programs, conferences, talks (e.g. [Black Birders Week](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/blog/sheridan-alford/), [Black Mammalogists Week](https://medium.com/@realscientists/blackmammologistsweek-is-here-e6d08092e293)), but these do NOT count towards your two sources. You’ll need to locate other sources to fulfill the assignment criteria.

**Step 5: Grading and Rubric**

The assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. Late assignments will be deducted 15% for every late day. Remember we do have a 24 hour grace period, although I urge you to only use this extra time if you absolutely require it. No assignments will be accepted 7 days after the due date.

Keep in mind that you do not have a lot of words to play with here. This means you should limit

direct quotes from outside sources as they will be attributed to your final word count.

| **GRADING RUBRIC** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Points** | **Criteria** | **Excellent** | **Satisfactory** | **Unsatisfactory** |
| **/15** | **Preliminary Thoughts** | In-depth and thoughtful synthesis of your thoughts after reading the paper. Provides and cites the required number of sources or more. | Goes into some detail explaining your thoughts after reading the paper. Provides and cites one or two required sources. | Identifies some general thoughts after reading the paper. Provides and cites few, perhaps no, required sources. |
| **/15** | **3 Researchers Highlighted and Suggested Course Additions** | Present 3 researchers discussed in the paper and synthesize, analyze and evaluate thoughtfully where in our course these researchers should be highlighted. | Presents some researchers and synthesizes clearly some directly appropriate ideas about where in our course these researchers should be highlighted. | Presents little to few researcher(s) and provides some general ideas about where in our course they should be highlighted. |
| **/15** | **Is this still an issue and suggestion (at least one) for promoting diversity in animal behavior** | Discusess, highlights, and thoughtfully provides evidence regarding whether diversity related issues are still prevalent in animal behavior. Provides one or more suggestions for how this can change. | Provides some thoughts on whether diversity related issues are still prevalent in animal behavior. Provides one or more suggestions for how this can change. | Presents limited thoughts on whether diversity related issues are still prevalent in animal behavior. Provides one or no suggestions for how this can change. |
| **/5** | **Grammar, spelling, mechanics etc.** | No spelling or grammar errors.  Meets all formal and assignment requirements and evidences attention to detail; assignment is neat and correctly assembled with a professional look. | Few spelling and grammar errors.  Meets format and assignment requirements; assignment is neat and correctly assembled. | Many spelling and grammar errors, use of incomplete sentences, inadequate proofreading. Fails to follow format and assignment requirements; neatness of assignment needs attention. |
| **TOTAL:**  **/50** |  |  |  |  |

**Step 6: Additional Questions?**

Contact me at [sb4894@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:sb4894@hunter.cuny.edu)