

## ***Collapse* Individual Annotated Bibliography and Group Presentation**

**DUE Thursday February 24:** Individual list of citations in proper APA format along with paper or electronic versions of your sources.

**DUE Tuesday March 1:** Final Individual Annotated bibliography (on paper in mentor session)

**DUE March 8 (or 10):** Final 15-minute Group Presentations

### **75 points total:**

Individual citation list and source materials: 5 points (peer review 5 points)

Individual Annotated Bibliography 20 points

Group presentation: 35 points (peer review 10 points)

Be sure you have your list of citations and sources with you for class on Tuesday February 24 (due date). Also, bring an extra copy of your final annotated bibliography on Tuesday March 1 to aid you and your group in planning your class presentation (this copy can be electronic).

**Overview:** Early in the book *Collapse* Diamond claims that studying the successes and failures of past societies “offers us a rich database from which we can learn, in order that we may keep on succeeding” (p. 3). Then, on pages 11 – 15, he describes a five-point framework that can be used to structure our understanding of why some societies succeed or fail. Subsequent chapters present case studies of the roles that these five factors play in the success or failure of different societies (both past and current). If Diamond’s claim is true, then these case studies should provide valuable lessons to guide our current society towards a path of continued success. This assignment asks you to explore some of these potential lessons from other societies.

You have been assigned (with some choice via lottery) to one of the *Collapse* chapters 3-13. The first part of this two-part assignment, asks you to *individually* find academic citations about your assigned society (chapter of *Collapse*) and prepare an annotated bibliography. The second part of the assignment asks you, with two or three other students assigned to the same chapter, to work in a group to develop a presentation about your society which you will present to the rest of the class. Your group presentation will be based on your assigned chapter *and* academic and other sources about the society (or societies) you are covering. We will visit the library to get some guidance on finding these other sources.

Learning goals addressed in this project include written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, critical thinking, the diversity of world cultures, and the ethical implications of the societal choices of which we are a part. You will also gain practice in using and citing academic and other sources.

**Part One:** An individual annotated bibliography focused on the society (or societies) from your assigned chapter. In your bibliography you should include at least four sources that you summarize. Three must be from academic sources and should not overlap with your other group members. The fourth source may or may not be academic, but should be from a reliable news or popular press source. In addition, at least one of your academic sources should specifically challenge Diamond’s analysis or conclusions about the society (or societies) you are covering. Be sure to bring your list of sources and the articles themselves (paper or electronically) to mentor

session on Thursday February 24. (It will be a good idea to have some extra possibilities in case there is overlap within your group.)

In your annotated bibliography you are to write a summary of each article (200-300 words) highlighting the main points in the article in relationship to Diamond's 5-point framework. Do not just paraphrase each article's abstract. In your summary you need to put the article's findings in the context of the framework used in *Collapse*. Each summary should begin with a proper APA formatted reference to the summarized article. In class and mentor session we will continue to discuss the issue of what is an academic source, how to summarize a source, and what is required in an APA citation. Be sure to ask questions if you do not understand what is being asked of you or how to proceed.

**Part Two:** 15 minute group PowerPoint presentation on your assigned *Collapse* chapter. In your presentation you should:

- Present a *brief* introduction to the society (or societies) you are discussing.
- Describe how Diamond's 5-point framework applies to the society.
- Briefly describe what your collective outside sources say and whether they support or challenge (or both) Diamond's analysis.
- Explore how the case study presented in the chapter does, or does not, offer lessons for us today.

Specific Presentation and Oral Communication goals:

- Effective use of text and outside sources to present main points in visually pleasing and uncluttered PowerPoint slides. (If you wish to use an alternative to PowerPoint slides for your presentation, this is fine, but please see me.)
- Inclusion of images (e.g., maps, pictures, and art) to add information.
- Practiced and confident delivery with good eye contact and minimal reading from notes.
- Participation of all group members.
- Engagement of the audience (e.g., taking or asking a couple of questions at the end, testing audience knowledge with a show of hands, etc.). Be sure not to distract the audience away from your presentation by giving them a worksheet that takes too much of their attention.
- Finishing within the 15 minute time limit. This time limit will be strictly enforced so please practice your presentation to make sure that you are not trying to cover too much material.