

**Sociology 100**  
**Fall 2011**  
**Professor Gómez**

**Essay 1**

Respond to one of the following prompts. Essays should be double spaced and 5-7 pages long. Hard copies are due in class Friday, October 28. Late essays will be penalized 1/3 grade per day late. *Essays must be submitted to turnitin.com before being handed in.* Section IDs and enrollment passwords for turnitin.com will be given to you by your TA.

1. Write a thesis-based essay agreeing with, disagreeing with, or modifying the following statement:

Tocqueville argues that a major achievement of the Americans is that they are able to institute political equality without revolutionizing social institutions such as religion, family, and property. Marx, however, proves that such conventions and institutions are incompatible with equality.

2. Using the assigned reading from *The Marx-Engels Reader* as your source, perform a Marxian analysis of one of the following texts. The text must air or be published between the time that this prompt was assigned and the day that you turn it in:
  - a. An NFL game
  - b. Front page/article from the New York Times
  - c. Jay-Z & Kanye West - *Watch the Throne*
  - d. One hour cable news
  - e. *Eat, Pray, Love* (book or movie)
  - f. Anthropologie/Free People/Urban Outfitters catalogue or website
  - g. apple.com/iphone
  - h. Episode of
    - i. *Gossip Girl*
    - ii. *Two Broke Girls*
    - iii. *Glee*
    - iv. *America's Next Top Model*
    - v. *Deadliest Catch*
  - i. Other text approved by your TA