Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

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Assignment

### *Developmental Readings*

Review Assignment #3, the course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

* Refer to the “[Student Guide to Developmental Readings](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

Assignment #2 – Developmental Readings

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. Review the instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements, and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

a. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source One:**

Hirsch, S. (2019). Rural America by the numbers. *Generations*, 43(2), 9-16.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Although the rural areas of the country contain slightly less than 20 percent of the population, 59 percent of Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas were located in rural areas. (Hirsch, 2019, p. 14)

**Essential Element:** Interpretive Methods in Social Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:**  This quote shows healthcare challenges in rural America, where many healthcare professionals work in areas where they get paid more, such as urban areas, and thus the rural areas have a difficult time finding healthcare providers. There are incentive programs out there to pay back student loans and supplemental programs offered by the federal and state governments to increase the number of healthcare providers in rural areas. However, the challenge remains. I do hope in my sociological research study this problem and I hope to discover some options that may decrease the rural healthcare shortage areas.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Due to the shift in population from rural to urban areas, the median age in much of non-metro America is higher than the median age in the Metro areas. (Hirsch, 2019, p.12)

**Essential Element:** Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** Over the past several decades, there have been multiple shifts in rural America's population. One is the population shift out of rural areas, mainly by the younger generation moving out to urban areas for higher-paying careers. Another is population growth in former rural areas, which shift those areas to non-rural areas and leaves fewer people in the remaining rural areas. In addition to the aging population of those who own land and work in rural areas. This has caused the rural population to have a higher average of an older population. This in turn produces economic healthcare challenges of a more aging population where healthcare access becomes more of an issue where healthcare needs become more in need.

**Source Two:**

Mueller, J. T., McConnell, K., Burow, P. B., Pofahl, K., Merdjanoff, A. A., & Farrell, J. (2021). Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural America. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(1), 2019378118

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** As these rural regions have poorer hospital access (11), more vulnerable labor markets (10, 29), and heightened levels of material hardship compared to urban areas (8, 40, 43), these dramatic impacts likely indicate an even more difficult road to recovery. These vulnerabilities of rural regions are reflected in our findings of significant increases in unemployment, heightened use of unemployment insurance, adverse impacts to mental health, and currently poor perceptions of local economic health. (Mueller, et al, 2021, p. 5)

**Essential Element:** Principles of Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social and economic dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** Several healthcare dynamics are happening withing rural America, from different eating habits to a resistance to going into routine healthcare, to an aging population, to lack of health insurance, and to access to care. With these dynamics it leads to barriers to obtaining a higher level of health and when people get sick or are struck with health issues there tends to be a longer recovery period and well as having health return to the prior status that may be needed to continue to work at the same level, which in turn hinders their ability to remain healthy.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Prior to the pandemic, rural households already struggled economically compared to their metropolitan counterparts. For instance, while rural areas were less severely impacted by the 2008 financial crisis, they have been slower to recover in the long term (34), and working poverty is much more prevalent among rural workers than urban workers (35). (Mueller, et al, 2021, p.3)

**Essential Element:** Scholarly Writing Techniques

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social and economic dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** This quote points out that there are different economic situations in rural areas compared to urban areas. There are less jobs available in rural areas and those jobs that are there tend to pay less and require less skilled labor. And due to globalization, many of the rural community had their main resource economy shift to other parts of the world and has shrunk the rural town employment opportunities. In this day and age of tech-economy, there could be a prime replacement in those rural areas, however there needs to be more broadband and technology networks that could be utilized for rural population to engage in the technology economy. In addition to a lack of skill training and a highly educated population to fulfill the possible opportunities. There seems to be workable solutions to these challenges, I think it would take some further understanding and commitment to retool rural areas to the tech-economy. However, there would be more people be willing to move to rural areas for the tech-economy jobs, which in turn would produce an economic revitalization of rural towns.

**Source Three:**

Jensen, L., Monnat, S. M., Green, J. J., Hunter, L. M., & Sliwinski, M. J. (2020). Rural population health and aging: toward a multilevel and multidimensional research agenda for the 2020s. *American Journal of Public Health*, 110(9), 1328-1331.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Population health and aging trends are driven by multilevel and multidimensional factors, including place-level population composition and local economic, service, social, natural, and policy environments. Rural areas are more demographically and economically diverse than ever before, and we cannot assess problems, develop policies, or deliver adequate resources to rural areas without recognizing these fundamental differences and without a clearer understanding of the exposures shaping health and aging among different rural populations. (Jensen, et al, 2020, p. 1331)

**Essential Element:** Interpretive Methods in Social Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social and economic dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** This quote points to the challenge in the rural communities in general, social and economic, but also in health of the population. There is a diversity of people who live and work in rural areas, each with particular healthcare needs. There are younger school aged people with specialized needs such as special needs, behavioral health needs and physical health needs, older people with gerontology needs and anyone in between with medical, dental and behavioral healthcare needs. However, in most rural areas there needs to be more healthcare professionals to service these needs. Which requires people to travel distances to urban areas to see healthcare professionals or utilize telehealth services, which due to lack of broadband systems the connections could be more stable in addition to the learning curve and technical resources it takes to partake in this means of healthcare. There seems like there should be workable solutions that could be available, I think it takes a collaborative to work through those issues and model the solution to different rural areas.

**Source Four:**

Cohen, S. A., & Greaney, M. L. (2023). Aging in Rural Communities. *Current Epidemiology Reports*, 10(1), 1-16.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** The aging population in rural America is a distinct population due to the unique social, economic, cultural, and health-related characteristics. They have higher rates of mental health, chronic diseases, and generally worse health outcomes than non-rural-aged populations. (Cohen, 2023)

**Essential Element:** Approaches of Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This paraphrase is additive to my current understanding of the social dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** The aging population is a concern in rural America because of the various dynamic of the rural population, such as the shift in young people out of rural areas which leaves less replacement workers as the older population retires or are unable to work in the labor intense work environments. The older rural population has a district cultural system, a general ruggedness that lends itself to a population that goes less to healthcare facilities and less care for mental health and medical conditions, on top of the general decline in health status as we age. These play a role in the challenges that lead to how to care for the aging population healthcare where healthcare access has been an issue already in rural America. With the high cost of land in rural areas it is difficult to bring in replacements to take over for this rural aging populations. It seems like if we do not come up with workable solutions there is going to be a even larger social, economic, environmental, and healthcare crisis in our rural areas.

**Source Five:**

Shostak, S. (2023). Food and Inequality. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 49.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** There is also geographic variation in household food insecurity, with higher rates found in the South and in rural and urban (as compared with suburban and exurban) communities (Seligman & Berkowitz 2019). Food insecurity is associated with a myriad of negative health and social consequences. When children experience food insecurity, it negatively effects their overall health status; food-insecure children generally experience 2–4 times as many health problems as do other children within the same income bracket (Cook et al. 2013) and are at higher risk of being hospitalized (Gundersen & Ziliak 2015) (p. 367)

**Essential Element:** Interpretive Methods in Social Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social and economic dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** This quote refers to the issue of food insecurity in rural America, where even those they produce a raw crops, there is a lack of affordable good healthy foods. There is a high level of poverty and government assistance in rural areas. In addition to the high cost of groceries in those areas, where they may take SNAP benefits. Local producers that have healthy fruits and vegetables and meat may not take SNAP benefits, so thus there is a cycle of not being able to gain access to healthy foods and maintain a healthy lifestyle. I have often thought that those with a healthy lifestyle can afford a healthy one, which precludes many from rural areas.

**Source Six:**

Johnson, K. M. (2019). The impact of population change on business activity in rural America. Routledge.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Durning the past half century there has been a major population shift in rural areas, and this had a major impact of the business structure and goods and services as a result has impacted the remaining population in rural areas. (Johnson, 2019)

**Essential Element:** Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social and economic dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** In the past half century there has been a major shift in population out of rural America, due to various reasons that have caused social and economic downfalls in rural areas. In many rural areas we have landowners that may have wealth themselves, but they need workers to work the fields and transport goods to the market. These workers have families that support rural communities’ business and the tax base. When people move out of these rural communities there is a big impact on the existing community economy, stores close, schools close, the community starts to dry up as we have seen in so many rural towns. The workers become less and less than the town becomes a thing of the past. There seems to be a workable solution to revitalize our rural communities.

**Source Seven:**

Sherman, J. (2021). Dividing paradise: Rural inequality and the diminishing American dream. Univ of California Press.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** In the rural areas there has been a historical and cultural tie to land-based economics, however the continuation of globalization and neoliberalism had shifted this land-based economy out of rural America. This shift has increased poverty and unemployment. Compounding this, the issue of geographic isolation and lack of technological infostructure impartiality and lack of highly educated work force has hindered the options for economic development. (Sherman, 2021)

**Essential Element:** Principles of Hermeneutics

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive to my current understanding of the social and economic dynamics in rural America.

**Contextualization:** The main economic resource that rural America has is natural resources (timber and minerals) and agriculturally based resources (pastures and crops). There has been a shift in small scale operations to global corporatized ownership and operating these resource-based economies. Wages are less in other countries which had shifted the production of land-based resources to other countries by these corporations. This has had a significant impact on the rural communities, the jobs are no longer there, or the pay is poor and thus the once promising career prospects are no longer there, and people leave those communities for better economic opportunities. We need to get people back into these rural areas, and to do this we need to create economic opportunities that could exist in those areas. With the technology economy it seems that we can bring workers in those areas while working in the tech-economy, which is done on computers and through the web, they are no longer tied to office spaces in urban areas but could be done in rural communities with the technological structures available there and available training. Also, the cost of housing needs to be addressed so there would be an incentive to get people back in the rural communities, which would revitalize the rural community’s economy.

**Works Cited**

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