COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication

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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.

 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.

**Yamane, D. (2017). The sociology of U.S. gun culture. *Sociology Compass*, e12497. doi:10.1111/soc4.12497.**

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**"Even though the United States has a strong culture based on the legal possession and usage of firearms by law-abiding gun owners, there is no sociology of American gun culture. Rather, criminological, and epidemiological studies of gun violence dominate social science research on guns" (Yamane, 2017). The author identifies a huge void in the scholarly landscape concerning American gun culture. While there is a vibrant culture around legal gun ownership, the scholarly attention has primarily been on criminological and epidemiological components rather than a thorough sociology of the subject.

**Essential Elements-**The article establishes a clear link between hermeneutic concepts and interpretative methodologies used in social research. Yamane (2007) draws on interpretative techniques to comprehend the cultural features of gun culture in the United States by acknowledging the lack of a sociology of gun culture in the country and offering a remedy. He also explores the ideas of hermeneutics by analyzing the development of American gun culture throughout time.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**Yamane's work is additive in nature, as it presents the idea of a sociology of gun culture in the United States, offering a novel viewpoint on comprehending these social phenomena. The author hopes to bring nuance to the social science study of weapons by expanding the conversation beyond the prevalent focus on gun violence.

**Contextualization-**Considering Yamane (2007) observations, I may use the concept of a sociology of American gun culture to better grasp the many facets of lawful gun ownership. As a researcher, you may be able to influence future study paths by better understanding the cultural, recreational, and self-defense components by delving into this ignored facet. There may be concerns about the cultural ramifications of the move toward armed self-defense.

**Felson, R. B., & Pare, P.-P. (2020). Gub cultures or honor cultures? Explaining regional and race differences in weapon carrying. *Social Forces, 88*(3), 1357-1378. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/40645894**

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**"We use the National Violence against Women (and Men) Survey to examine the effects of region and race on the tendency to carry weapons for protection. We find that Southern and Western whites are much more likely than Northern whites to carry guns for self-protection, controlling their risk of victimization." (Felson and Pare, 2020). The author gives a summary of their study methods and the observed racial and geographical disparities in the carrying of weapons in this excerpt. The emphasis on gun ownership among white people in the South and West, especially for self-defense, creates the framework for examining the subtle cultural differences.

**Essential Element-**This study is consistent with hermeneutic techniques and interpretative methodologies in social science research. The writers use social research techniques to look at how race and geography affect the carrying of weapons. The study also explores hermeneutics, interpreting the disparities as indicative of either an honor culture or a gun culture.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**The study's analysis is additive, offering insightful information about the connection between racial, regional, and weapon carrying. The research adds to our knowledge of racial and geographical disparities in weapon-carrying habits by highlighting the prevalence of gun carrying among whites in the South and the West and examining the differences in knife carrying.

**Contextualization-**On a personal level, this research stimulates consideration on the social influences promoting weapon carrying. Investigating the noted geographical differences as a scholar may help you gain a better knowledge of the underlying cultural factors behind these differences. There may be concerns about the historical, social, or legal elements that have shaped different gun cultures and honor cultures.

**Bellesiles, M. A. (1996). The origins of gun culture in the United States, 1760-1865 . *Journal of American History*, 425-455. doi:10.2307/2944942**

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**"What sets the United States apart from every other industrialized country is the startlingly high percentage of intimate partner violence. When Canada's murder rate peaked in 1993 at 630, the United States—a country with a population almost 10 times larger—saw 24,526 murders out of around two million violent offenses overall." (Bellesiles, 1996). Bellesiles emphasizes the frequency of gun-related killings and violent crimes in her first chapter with a sharp contrast of domestic violence in the US. The figures that were cited highlight the severity of the problem and provide context for a look at the history of gun culture.

**Essential Element-**This work is consistent with historical hermeneutics, interpretative approaches in social research, and scholarly writing styles. Bellesiles (1996) explores the hermeneutics of comprehending public attitudes toward weapons while analyzing the historical foundations of gun culture using interpretative methodologies. The statistical evidence utilized to support the societal effects of gun culture is replete with examples of scientific writing approaches.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**The study presented here is additive, adding to our knowledge of the background and social implications of gun culture in the US. The data provided deepens the conversation by highlighting the prevalence of gun-related violence and the social norms around gun ownership.

**Contextualization-**On a personal level, thinking back on the data and cultural perceptions of guns makes one consider the background of American gun culture. An academic's exploration of this culture's historical history, particularly from 1760 to 1865, may shed light on the origins and evolution of views toward firearms. There may be concerns, such as how historical occurrences have shaped American culture's view of weapons.

**Cukier, W., & Sheptycki, J. (2012). Globalization of gun culture transnational reflections on pistolization and masculinity, flows and resistance. *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice, 40*(1), 3-19. doi:10.1016/j.ijlcj.2011.09.001.**

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**"Pistolization refers to the cultural norm of carrying a firearm as a necessary accessory for daily life. It is a cultural practice that has been socially built, linked to ideas of masculine authority, and, in some cases, produced as a representation of manly affluence." - (Sheptycki & Cukkier, 2012). The phrase "pistolization" is used to describe the accepted practice of carrying a handgun daily. The writers emphasize how this behavior is culturally constructed, connecting it to ideas of masculine authority and—intriguingly—to symbols of wealth.

**Essential Element-**This study is consistent with hermeneutic techniques, concepts, and interpretative methodologies in social science research. Cukier and Sheptycki (2012) employ hermeneutics to comprehend the symbolic relationships between gun ownership and masculinity, delving into the cultural dimensions of pistolization. The examination of the worldwide cultural ordering of weapons by the transnational reflections adds another layer.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**The analysis in this paper is additive, advancing knowledge of pistolization as a cultural practice and its connections to wealth and masculinity. The writers examine the many ways in which "gun culture" is interpreted across the world and talk about cultural backlash against the invasion of American-style gun culture. This deepens the analysis of how guns are seen and used in many cultural situations.

**Contextualization-**Thinking about the idea of pistolization makes me personally focus on the ways that cultural norms, masculinity, and wealth symbols interact. As a researcher, one might get insights into the intricacies of firearm-related cultural processes by investigating the global expressions of "gun culture" and comprehending opposition to its expansion. There may be concerns about how social, political, and historical contexts have shaped differing perspectives on firearms across the world.

**Vegter, A., & Haider-Markel, D. P. (2022). Gun ownership, threat, and gun attitudes in an experiement. *Journal of Socialogy Perspective, 65*(1), 119-132. doi:10.1177/0731121421102112**

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**Researchers have looked at how opinions toward gun control are shaped by perceived threat and fear of crime. We add to this body of literature by investigating whether gun owners, who typically disagree with gun laws, change their minds about guns in response to a threat involving firearms." (Vegter & Haider-Markel, 2022). The authors present the idea of perceived threat and criminal fear in connection to opinions on gun control. They suggest investigating whether gun owners who have historically opposed controls change their minds in the face of a threat involving firearms.

**Essential Element-**This study is consistent with hermeneutic techniques, concepts, and interpretative methodologies in social science research. Vegter and Haider-Markel (2022) employ interpretative approaches to examine the relationship between perceived threat, gun ownership, and views toward gun laws to get an understanding of the underlying psychological and cultural elements. The study uses hermeneutics to examine the intricate connections between gun ownership, terror, and policy views.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**The analysis presented is additive, adding to the body of knowledge about attitudes toward gun control, threat perception, and gun ownership. To investigate whether gun owners' resistance to gun controls is mitigated when they are exposed to a hazard connected to firearms, the study adopts an experimental technique inside a nationally representative survey. This broadens our knowledge of how environmental circumstances might affect people's opinions about gun ownership and laws by providing a more nuanced perspective.

**Contextualization-**As one considers the findings, one has the chance to consider how one's perception of perceived risks might influence one's views toward gun ownership and laws. Exploring the complex relationship between fear, gun culture, and policy opinions as a researcher creates opportunities for future study. There may be concerns about the wider ramifications of these results for comprehending popular support for gun control laws and the possibility that deeply ingrained beliefs might change.

**Wolpert, R. M., & Gimpel, J. G. (1998). Self-interest, symbolic politics, and public attitudes towards gun control. *Political Behavior, 20*(3), 241-262. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/586530**

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**"Many studies have revealed that public sentiments regarding a wide range of policy problems are not much impacted by immediate and tangible self-interest. To find out if gun owners have unique policy preferences, we look at public opinions about gun control. Our findings suggest that the public's attitudes for gun regulation are significantly influenced by self-interest." (Wolpert & Gimpel, 1998). The authors examine popular sentiments regarding gun restriction after acknowledging that immediate self-interest has little bearing on public opinion. They particularly concentrate on ascertaining if gun owners have policy preferences, and they discover that the public's attitudes about gun restriction are significantly shaped by self-interest.

**Essential Element-**This study is consistent with hermeneutic concepts, interpretative approaches in social science, and scholarly writing styles. To comprehend how self-interest affects public opinions toward gun control, the author employs interpretative methodologies. Gun owners' unique policy choices are interpreted using the hermeneutics principles. The presentation of facts and conclusions demonstrates the use of scholarly writing approaches.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**The analysis presented is additive, advancing knowledge of how self-interest shapes public opinion, with a particular emphasis on gun control. The study looks at the different policy preferences that gun owners have and finds that the self-interest consequences of a handgun prohibition are greater than those of other measures. This gives the literature on gun control more depth and highlights the complex ways that self-interest shapes opinions.

**Contextualization-**Thinking about how self-interest shapes public perceptions of gun control makes one consider the variables that shape policy preferences. This study provides opportunities to investigate the psychological and pragmatic factors that contribute to gun owners' unique policy choices. Questions like the possible legislative ramifications and the wider societal ramifications of self-interested calculations around gun regulation may come up.

**Vernick, J. S., Rutkow, L., Webster, D. W., & Teret, S. P. (2011). Changing the constitutional landscape for firearms: The US Supreme Court's recent second amendment decisions. *American Journal of Public Health, 101*(11), 2021-2026. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2011.300200**

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase-**"In 2 recent cases—with important implications for public health practitioners, courts, and researchers—the US Supreme Court changed the landscape for judging the constitutionality of firearm laws under the Constitution's Second Amendment." Vernick et al. (2011). The authors highlight the revolutionary influence on determining the legitimacy of firearm prohibitions under the Second Amendment and explain the relevance of two recent Supreme Court judgments and its consequences for public health, legal professionals, and researchers.

**Essential Element-**This study is consistent with scholarly writing practices, hermeneutic concepts, and interpretative methodologies in social science research. Vernick et al. make use of interpretative techniques to comprehend the Second Amendment rulings' constitutional ramifications. The Second Amendment's interpretation modifications are analyzed using hermeneutic concepts, and these changes are successfully communicated via the use of academic writing approaches.

**Additive/Variant Analysis-**The analysis presented is additive, helping to clarify how recent rulings by the Supreme Court have changed the fundamental framework for gun regulations. The research demonstrates the influence of the landmark decisions McDonald v. City of Chicago and District of Columbia v. Heller on the interpretation of the Second Amendment. This broadens the body of knowledge about constitutional law and firearms, particularly when considering public health issues.

**Contextualization-**Reflecting on how recent Second Amendment rulings have transformed society triggers one to contemplate their wider ramifications. Investigating the constitutional modifications to gun regulations provides scholars with chances to conduct in-depth study on sociological, legal, and public health aspects. There may be concerns about how these choices may affect public health strategies and future policies for firearm-related matters.

# **Works Cited**

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