GEOG 106 Economic Geography

Final Essay Guide

**TOPIC: What Every American Should Understand About why Norway, Finland, and Sweden are Pulling Farther and Farther Ahead**

Few people of our great country have any idea how badly the Nordic countries are beating us by almost any social statistic that is systematically collected. You saw this when you did project #2. Whether it be life expectancy, internet access, social mobility (eg. The American Dream), infant mortality, freedom, or almost any other social indicator, we are behind, way behind.

I started talking about this in a couple of my classes nearly 20 years ago. At the time, the differences were small, but through time, they have grown larger and larger. At this point it is so bad that even our life expectancy is shrinking for the white population, especially those who are not college educated.

Based on your reading assignments and project 2, here are the four things to write about in an essay of approximately 500-600 words:

1. The various statistics and other signs/indicators that the populations of Norway, Sweden and Finland are pulling ahead of the United States.
2. The reasons given by [Partanen](https://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm/Geography%20106%20Economic%20Geography/development/required/assigned%20reading%20for%20open%20notes%20part%20of%20exam/) why we are falling behind.
3. The recommendations given by Partanen for how we can get back on track.
4. How her recommendations are likely to be received by different ***social groups*** in the United States, given that her recommendations include a greater role of the state and a rolling back of the neoliberal political economy dominant in the United States. [Social groups](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm/Geography%20106%20Economic%20Geography/development/Social%20Class%20Typology%20J.%20Foster.jpg) include the ultra-wealthy, the upper middle class, the lower middle class, and the working class.

This is due by e-mail no later than Friday, June 14, at 2 p.m.