

RESEARCH METHODS: TAKE-HOME TEST

You have to complete Section A, one question from Section B, and one question from Section C. This take-home exam evaluates your ability to apply the methods, theories, and principles that we discussed. Clarity and precision are essential. In all your answers, you must refer only to sources (topics, theories, elements, examples, readings, cases, etc.) that we discussed in class. **No outside sources may be referred to or included in your answers.** You are not permitted to consult with anyone about this test. Please do not ask me questions about the test once this test is posted online. As a matter of fairness, I do not want to give answers to some students that others do not have the benefit (or detriment) of hearing. You will simply have to use your own judgment about how to handle any possible difficulties, including the interpretation of the questions and tasks. **Submission:** You need to **submit this evaluation in person, in class on October 27, 2021 by 7 pm EST.**

Section A: (50%)

1. Design a short research project based on the following article as discussed in class. Include the research problem (whose structure must abide by Laudan's principles for designing research problems), the research question, the general objective, at least, three specific objectives, and a hypothesis.

‘America’s future is as bleak as North Korea’ says defector after attending Columbia

As American educational institutions continue to be called into question, a North Korean defector fears the United States' future "is as bleak as North Korea" after she attended one of the country's most prestigious universities.

Yeonmi Park has experienced plenty of struggle and hardship, but she does not call herself a victim. One of several hundred North Korean defectors settled in the United States, Park, 27, transferred to Columbia University from a South Korean university in 2016 and was deeply disturbed by what she found. "I expected that I was paying this fortune, all this time and energy, to learn how to think. But they are forcing you to think the way they want you to think," Park said in an interview with Fox News. "I realized, wow, this is insane. I thought America was different but I saw so many similarities to what I saw in North Korea that I started worrying." Those similarities include anti-Western sentiment, collective guilt and suffocating political correctness. Yeonmi realized that every one of her classes at the Ivy League school was infected with what she saw as anti-American propaganda, reminiscent to the sort she had grown up with. "'American Bastard' was one word for North Koreans" Park was taught growing up. "The math problems would say 'there are four American bastards, you kill two of them, how many American bastards are left to kill?'" She was also shocked and confused by issues surrounding gender and language, with every class asking students to announce their preferred pronouns.

"English is my third language. I learned it as an adult. I sometimes still say 'he' or 'she' by mistake and now they are going to ask me to call them 'they'? How the heck do I incorporate that into my sentences?" "It was chaos," said Yeonmi. "It felt like the regression in civilization." "Even North Korea is not this nuts," she admitted. "North Korea was pretty crazy, but not this crazy." After getting into a number of arguments with professors and students, eventually Yeonmi "learned how to just shut up" in order to maintain a good GPA and graduate. In North Korea, Yeonmi Park did not know of concepts like love or liberty. "Because I have seen oppression, I know what it looks like," said Yeonmi, who by the age of 13 had witnessed people drop dead of starvation right before her eyes. "These kids keep saying how they're oppressed, how much injustice they've experienced. They don't know how hard it is to be free," she admonished. "I literally crossed through the middle of the Gobi Desert to be free. But what I did was nothing, so many people fought harder than me and didn't make it." Park and her mother first fled the oppressive North Korean regime in 2007, when Yeonmi was 13 years old. After crossing into China over the frozen Yalu River, they fell into the hands of human traffickers who sold them into slavery: Yeonmi for less than \$300 and her mother for roughly \$100. With the help of Christian missionaries, the pair managed to flee to Mongolia, walking across the Gobi Desert to eventually find refuge in South Korea. In 2015 she published her memoir "In Order to Live," where she described what it took to survive in one of the world's most brutal dictatorships and the harrowing journey to freedom.

"The people here are just dying to give their rights and power to the government. That is what scares me the most," the human right activist said. She accused American higher education institutions of stripping people's ability to think critically. "In North Korea I literally believed that my Dear Leader [Kim Jong-un] was starving," she recalled. "He's the fattest guy - how can anyone believe that? And then somebody showed me a photo and said 'Look at him, he's the fattest guy. Other people are all thin.' And I was like, 'Oh my God, why did I not notice that he was fat?' Because I never learned how to think critically." "That is what is happening in America," she continued. "People see things but they've just completely lost the ability to think

critically." Witnessing the depth of American's ignorance up close has made Yeonmi question everything about humanity.

"North Koreans, we don't have Internet, we don't have access to any of these great thinkers, we don't know anything. But here, while having everything, people choose to be brainwashed. And they deny it." Having come to America with high hopes and expectations, Yeonmi expressed her disappointment. "You guys have lost common sense to degree that I as a North Korean cannot even comprehend," she said. "Where are we going from here?" she wondered. "There's no rule of law, no morality, nothing is good or bad anymore, it's complete chaos." "I guess that's what they want, to destroy every single thing and rebuild into a Communist paradise."

Section B: (25%). Choose ONE of the following two alternatives.

2. Explain and illustrate with, at least, three examples, the following quote: "Think of a parent teaching a child to recognise and describe apples. The parent shows the child an apple, points to it, and utters the word "apple". The child soon learns to repeat the word "apple" in imitation. Having mastered this particular accomplishment, perhaps on a later day the child encounters its sibling's tennis ball, points and says "apple". At this point, the parent intervenes to explain that the ball is not an apple, demonstrating, for example, that one cannot bite it like an apple. Further mistakes by the child, such as the identification of a choko as an apple, will require somewhat more elaborate explanations from the parent. By the time the child can successfully say there is an apple present when there is one, it has learnt quite a lot about apples. So it would seem that it is a mistake to presume that we must first observe the facts about apples before deriving knowledge about them from those facts, because the appropriate facts, formulated as statements, presuppose quite a lot of knowledge about apples." (Chalmers).
3. Explain and illustrate with, at least, three examples, the following quote: "Science is neither a single tradition, nor the best tradition there is, except for people who have become accustomed to its presence, its benefits and its disadvantages. In a democracy it should be separated from the state just as churches are now separated from the state." (Feyerabend).

Section C: (25%). Choose ONE of the following two alternatives.

4. Explain and critically analyze the following quote from Dr. Fauci: "A lot of what you're seeing as attacks on me, quite frankly, are attacks on science, because all of the things that I have spoken about, consistently from the very beginning, have been fundamentally based on science."

5. Analyze the following news article.

USask suspends doctor calling for ‘informed consent’ for mRNA vaccines

By David Giles Global News

Posted June 23, 2021 8:43 pm

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) has suspended a Saskatoon doctor who spoke at a rally last week calling for informed consent before administering the COVID-19 vaccine to children. Dr. Francis Christian, who is a practicing surgeon in Saskatoon, says that he is a pro-vaccine physician. “I am only too aware of the great scourges of mankind, including smallpox, that have been eliminated or made innocuous by vaccination,” he said. “I am also pro-vaccine for my own family, including myself.” However, he called for a pause on administering the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12. According to Saskatchewan government documents, only children aged 12 require parental consent for a vaccine. Those aged 13 to 17 can legally consent to be immunized or refuse immunization as they are considered by the province to be a “mature minor.” Last Thursday, Christian said that in medicine, there is a “sacrosanct principle” of informed consent before administering “any kind of drug or treatment or intervention.” “Before the vaccine is rolled out to children, both children and parents must know the risks of mRNA vaccines to children, any benefit to children and any alternatives to vaccines,” he said in a statement. “The principle of informed consent is being consistently violated in this province for the mRNA vaccine for our kids. I have not met a single vaccinated child or parent who has been adequately informed and who then understand the risks of this vaccine or its benefits.” He said, at a minimum, parents and children need to be made aware of eight points, including that mRNA is an experimental vaccine design that only has “interim authorization” in Canada and that “COVID-19 does not pose a threat to our kids.”

The University of Saskatchewan has taken action against Christian. In a statement to Global News on Wednesday, the university said Christian has been suspended while his actions and public statements are reviewed. “While the review takes place, as per USask policies, Dr. Christian has been suspended from his faculty responsibilities, including his two academic administrative roles within the Department of Surgery,” said Dr. Preston Smith, Dean of the College of Medicine. “When somebody is saying things that are at such great variance with all of our experts and worldwide experts and public safety is involved and could be jeopardized through these differences of view, I think we have to recognize that that’s a special situation that requires urgent and extraordinary action and that’s our reason for acting at this time.” Smith said the university encourages “public debate of important societal issues.” “However, as identified in USask’s Medical Faculty Policy, our medical faculty are subject to the ethical and professional standards governing the practice of medicine, and USask is responsible to review concerns raised about its medical faculty in relation to these standards.”