

PSY 430 / SEVEN DEADLY SINS

FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT

No longer satisfied with seven sins, the Vatican has decided to implement an eighth sin. Seems that there's just too much bad behavior on this planet, so an eighth sin seemed like a good idea. You have been asked, as the Vatican's social-psychological consultant, to decide what this eighth sin should be.

Your paper should follow this structure:

1. Identify and define the sin.
2. Present a thorough literature review presenting what social psychologists have learned about this sin. You should present, in detail, a minimum of five research articles.
3. Present arguments why this behavior should be considered a sin. In doing so, explain how this behavior is *similar* to other behaviors that have already been identified by the Vatican as sins.
4. Present the other side: Why should this behavior *not* be considered a sin? In doing so, you might choose to show how this behavior is, in some important way, different from the seven sins.
5. Make your argument. Should this behavior be identified as a sin? Should it not? Why?

For the first draft, due by October 7, Parts 1 and 2 are required. Only these parts will be graded. If, however, you would like to submit any additional portions of the paper at this time, I will be happy to provide feedback that will not impact your score.

The final draft, due by November 23, will require the submission of all five parts.

Some additional details:

- Your paper need not follow APA format, but it should be clear and well-composed.
- Write the paper for an audience very familiar with psychology and its verbiage.
- Include a reference section.
- Avoid direct quotes. Use your own words instead, being sure to cite appropriately.
- A reasonable page length would be somewhere between 12 to 15 pages.

I am happy to provide as much help as you'd like along the way. Stop by office hours, talk with me after class, or just swing by my office whenever you'd like. *And start early!*