This project is in sections , and is due Feb 22, 2012 at Noon . It is important to respond to all questions ask and clearly identify them before responding to them. APA format is require for this project.

**SECTION A;** write 500 words minimum that respond to the following questions with your thoughts, ideas, and comments. Be substantive and clear, and use examples to reinforce your ideas.

Sociology is the study of human social behavior and groups. While psychology provides people with insights into individual behavior, drives, and motivations, this course will examine how people relate to their fellow humans in social settings. This course will help you understand what influences behavior in the workplace as you work with organizations, teams, and large and small groups.

To begin, you will look at a social phenomenon quite common in today’s world, coulrophobia, or quite simply, the “abnormal fear of clowns.” This is one of the most common fears in the younger generations. One conjecture is that the images of clowns as slashers, monsters, and maniacs in the media (such as Stephen King’s work) have reshaped society's conception of clowns. Baby boomers, on the other hand, grew up with many positive, even gentle, and certainly safe, images like Bozo the Clown and the mime, Marcel Marceau. There is no one right answer, but it is an interesting example of a sociological question.

1. Interview and report on 4 people: 2 who are under 40 and 2 who are over 40. Simply ask them: What do you think of clowns? Listen to their answers.
2. Then, write 2 paragraphs on what you discovered, 1 describing the answers of the under-40 people and 1 describing that of the over-40 respondents.
	* Include anything really interesting that you discovered in talking to them about clowns, and include at least 1 outside reference on clowns (documented in an APA style) from the Internet or other sources.
		+ You may want to search “clown phobia” and read about it, or take a look at some of the clips on this topic (also known as *coulrophobia*) on video Web sites.
	* Comment briefly on what it was like to engage in sociological research (even at a rudimentary level).
3. Write your own take on clowns and the social phenomenon of clown phobia. Write 200 hundred words or approximately 2 paragraphs. Consider:
	* What causes this to happen in a culture?
	* What is the role of the media in shaping a collective image or meaning about something in the public eye?

**SECTION B; Write a total of 900 word minimum, Part A 400 words, and Part B 500 words. Include a running head, paper number, an abstract , and a reference page at the end of this section.**

The topic of your assignment is **the sociology of sport.** This is a large field within the discipline and one that most people experience in one way or another in their culture

This week, you should research the field of *sociology of sport*.

**Part A: 350 words ,** The first step toward your final assignment is to write a brief essay on sports and what sociology offers, as a way to understand it from a human experience.

* Begin by reading *Looking at Sports from Four Theoretical Perspectives* in the textbook (Chapter 1).
* Respond to the question: You can look at sports from several theoretical perspectives including conflict, functionalist, interactionist, and feminist. Which of these is most useful in looking at the sociology of sports? Why?

**Part B: 450 words ,** Find at least 2 outside sources on the sociology of sports, and present a brief discussion of this field of study. Summarize what you found in your research, using APA citations.

**Part C: 100 words minimum** Finally, answer the following:

* Why do so many people participate in sports, either as fans, players, or as a business?
* What do sports answer in terms of human needs?
* How can sports be explained from a sociological point of view?