

Sociology 101
Spring 2006
Dr Singer

Response Paper One: The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

Fadiman describes the story of Lia Lee as a “collision of two cultures”

Within your paper, I would like you to examine the story of Lia Lee in light of the building blocks of social structure: values, beliefs, norms, roles, and status.

How is social structure constructed within traditional Hmong society? How is it constructed within the U.S., and within the social institution of our medical establishment? (You might not discuss ALL of these building blocks, but should address most)

Besides the medical establishment, how have other social institutions affected the Lees’ life?

Using your ‘sociological imagination’, what do you think can be learned from the Lees’ story?

What did you think of this book?

Your paper is due March 10th in class. **If you are leaving early for spring break, you MUST give the paper to me before break.** Each day that your paper is late, including weekend and break days, your grade falls one letter grade. That means your paper is worth a 0 by the time break is over.

All quotes must be cited. All references to highly specific information must also be cited. You are not expected to use any materials besides readings assigned for our class. If you reference more than just the Fadiman book, you need to include a bibliography.

Citations should be done in this format: (Author’s last name year of copyright:page number). For example: The Hmong had an independent kingdom from about 400 A.D. to 900 A.D. (Fadiman 1997:15). Please note this is NOT an exact quote, but is still cited.

Your paper should be 5 full pages long, double spaced, with respectable margins. (I.E. no wider than the margins on this handout) I will not grade on punctuation, but a well-written, clearly articulated argument is sure to get a better grade than a weakly written paper. I highly suggest you consider bringing your paper to the writing center for help before turning it in. You are welcome to use “I” in your paper. I expect you to include and identify your own opinions.

This paper is worth 10% of your final grade.