Sociology Response Paper # 1

General guidelines:

Your response paper should be three to four pages (i.e. *at least* three full pages), double-spaced, in no more than 12 point font, and with reasonable margins. I am not grading explicitly on your writing ability, but poor writing makes for an overall poor paper. If you are not comfortable with your writing skills, please take your paper to the writing center in Language Hall. All quotes and specific pieces of information must be cited, with the author's name, source's publication date, and page number.

Assignment:

In this paper I am looking for your response to the reading. I want to see that you can apply/synthesize the concepts in the course from one reading to another. Your task is to address one of the following topics: (and yes, they do overlap in some cases, but you choose the central focus)

- The cultural construction of gender (and sex discrimination)
- Our society's views on sexuality
- The media (including TV and advertising) in relationship to race/class/ and or gender
- Crime and deviant behavior

I want you to approach one of these topics, based on the information in the readings, from multiple perspectives. First, how would you characterize the issue within today's society? (BE SPECIFIC) Second, discuss how sociologists would analyze this topic, using each of the four main theories/perspectives within anthropology. (Functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and the feminist perspective – this question is essential) Third, what arguments are the specific readings using? (Don't forget the articles in Seeing Ourselves) To what extent do you agree with the readings' perspectives and why? How have these readings "debunked" previous perceptions you may have held on this topic?

You may find you do not have room to address every single aspect of these questions. Please be specific about what you are addressing, and show enough depth and detail in your writing to show that you are significantly engaged in the issue/reading.

Please send me any questions about the assignment!