[This was the assignment for the final paper that Criminology students wrote in the fall of 2016. I give this assignment when we begin the unit on theory, which covers the second two thirds of the course.]

The task of the assignment: Explain why Bigger Thomas killed Mary Dalton, using one theory we have explored this semester.

An outline of the paper is due **Monday, Nov. 21**, at the start of class (hard copy only). The purpose of the outline is to show progress in laying out the core ideas in the paper. It is worth 5% of the final grade. See the next page for the recommended outline guidelines. Note that I will discuss feedback on the outlines the week after Thanksgiving: last names A-L on Nov. 28, and last names M-Z on Nov. 30.

The paper will be due at the final exam (hard copy) on **Friday, December 9**. It should be uploaded to SafeAssign by then (electronic copy). It is worth 20% of the final grade. The final exam is at…

　　　　-8 AM for the morning section

　　　　-10 AM for the afternoon section

Each paper should hit all of these areas:

- ☐ contain a thesis statement explaining why Bigger Thomas killed Mary Dalton. For those that want to read Book 2 (not required), you could alternatively discuss why he killed Bessie Mears.
- ☐ explain the tie between your argument and a theory of crime or deviance
- ☐ highlight the key aspects of the theory
- ☐ draw on one scholarly study using this theory, which is cited and listed in the references/ bibliography/ works cited section
- ☐ provide relevant context on Chicago in the 1930s and cite a reliable source
- ☐ provide (write out) and discuss four relevant quotes from the novel that support the use of this theory, and
- ☐ discuss the limitations of applying this theory to the murder, which may also reflect some of the limitations of the theory more broadly.

Recommended Outline Guidelines

The outline can be written as a skeleton. Say as much as you can to address these issues:

1. Outlining Paragraph 1 of the paper: Introduction
    a. Which theory are you applying to explain the killing of Mary (or Bessie)? Pick one.
    b. In the perspective of this theory, why did the murder occur? (This is **the thesis statement** you'll be proving throughout the paper)

2. Outlining Paragraph 2 of the paper: Explain the theory
    a. Major figures associated with it
    b. Period when it was developed
    c. Aspects of the theory, including:
        i.   Define key terms tied to this theory you'll be using. Just use the important concepts for your **thesis statement.**
        ii. Assumptions about human nature?
        iii. What causes crimes?
        iv. What is the process through which crimes are believed to occur?
        v.   What did theorists in this perspective see as "the solution" to controlling, managing, or preventing crime?
    d. <u>Cite at least one scholarly source</u>. The assigned readings count as scholarly sources.

3. Outlining Paragraph 3 of the paper: Discuss *Native Son* in historical context.
    a. What does the novel show about Chicago in the 1930s? Pick the most important issue for your paper. Could it be Great Migration, Great Depression, racial segregation in housing, the rise and persecution of the Communist Party, or the Nixon trial which has some similarities to the trial of Bigger Thomas?
    b. You'll need a reliable source for this
    c. In your view, how does the novel speak to this social issue of the time?

4. Outlining Paragraphs 4-6 of the paper: **List four quotes** in which you see **evidence for your theory** in the novel. Next to each quote, write the **concept** that this connects to, or the **aspect of the theory** (like in par. 2) that it links to.

5. Outlining the closing paragraph of the paper
    a. What is at least one weakness of this theory?
    b. What does this theory NOT explain about BT's actions?
    c. Is there evidence that contradicts your argument?

6. <u>References Section</u> of the paper (AKA Bibliography or Works Cited) will include the full references of any materials you use that are not assigned in our class.