

Podcast Project

POLI3129: Race and Politics // Autumn 2022¹

Deadline for recording and script: 3 pm BST, Monday 14 November

This term, you will be responsible for conducting your own research and producing a 10–minute podcast recording on a recent event or contemporary issue related to racial inequality of your choice. You must apply a theory of race or racialisation to help us understand this event or issue and refer to the historical legacies of imperialism or colonialism as background. By **Friday 14th October 2022**, you should submit your preference for your podcast topic via the Microsoft Form on Moodle (under “Assessment”). This will be reviewed by one of the course convenors to confirm if this would be a suitable topic for your project.

Along with your podcast recording, you must submit a 1,000–word podcast script.

We will hold a podcast workshop during lecture on **Friday, 4 November** give you an opportunity to learn more about producing a podcast and ask questions.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND TIPS

- Your podcast episode should not exceed 10 minutes in length, and must be a single, playable file in audio format. It can be narrated verbally.
- You can submit your audio file in MP3 (Digital Audio Format) or WAV (Waveform Audio File) format.

You will be assessed on the content of the episode. When preparing your episode, bear in mind all the Learning Outcomes for the module listed in the module handbook. **The podcast episode is not an assessment of your recording or editing skills.** There must be good audio quality where it is clear and easy to make out what you are saying, but we are neither asking for nor expecting bells and whistles.

Example of podcast structure:

1. Introduce topic and a basic talk outline
 - Introduce the problem, why is it an important event or issue?
 - What is the structure of the episode? Say what you’re going to talk about and a basic outline for the episode.
2. Present background information and context

¹ Parts of this assessment brief were adapted with permission from Dr. Rachel Torres.

- You may want to briefly outline the main events, the main actors involved or background to the issue
 - What were or are the major outcomes?
3. Which theory of racism or racialisation helps us understand these events or this issue?
 - What do you think explains racial inequality or discrimination that led to the events or issue you're focusing on?
 4. Outline any outstanding or unanswered questions, and recap and conclude with the key points or messages you want the listener to take away.

How to record and edit a podcast:

Audio podcasts are relatively simple and fast to create and edit. Windows users or Apple users can install the free Audacity software for creating and editing audio content, which can be exported as an .mp3 file with proper plugins. Many smartphones also have free or cheap apps available to record and export audio, though their sound quality may be poorer due to the lower microphone quality. Remember: the audio needs to be clear and easy to make out what you are saying.

For additional options, see the following article: <https://educate.apsanet.org/podcasting-as-asynchronous-learning>

Prior to upload, your podcast must be tested on different computers from the ones on which they were created, to ensure that the podcast will play correctly for others. We recommend asking a friend, ideally with a different operating system than you (so a PC user if you're a Mac user, or vice versa), to test your podcast.

Podcast script

- Your podcast script should outline the main points from your episode.
- Your podcast script doesn't have to be word-for-word what you say in the podcast and is mainly a guide to the podcast episode, to navigate the audio file and understand what you are saying (even though the audio quality should be good in any case).
- You must include timestamps to make clear where each section or paragraph starts in your audio file.
- You should include headings and subheadings, e.g., Introduction, Background, Theory, Implications, and Recap.
- You must include a bibliography of the sources you've used for the podcast, just as you would for an essay.

	First (70+)	2:1 (60–69)	2:2 (50–59)	Third and below
Script Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcast script is extremely well organized with an introduction, background history, and conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcast script is organized with an introduction, background history, and conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Script contains somewhat organized ideas; not presented in sequence	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of organization in script; choppy and confusing; difficult to follow
Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Goes above and beyond to present correct information <input type="checkbox"/> Cites all claims within the podcast <input type="checkbox"/> Citations are correctly formatted	<input type="checkbox"/> Takes some initiative to find extra information <input type="checkbox"/> Cites most claims within the podcast <input type="checkbox"/> Citations are correctly formatted	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses only materials provided <input type="checkbox"/> Some citations within podcast <input type="checkbox"/> Citations are not correctly formatted	<input type="checkbox"/> Presents inaccurate content <input type="checkbox"/> Little to no quality research done. <input type="checkbox"/> No citations
Final Product	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcast is clever and original <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging; captures interest of audience <input type="checkbox"/> Audio is clearly and easy to understand	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcast is thoughtful <input type="checkbox"/> Podcast is well done, interesting to audience <input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time, audio is clear.	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcast is at times clearly presented <input type="checkbox"/> Podcast is at times interesting to audience <input type="checkbox"/> Audio is hard to hear.	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcast is hard to follow; poorly organized <input type="checkbox"/> Audio cannot be heard.

Recommendations

- **Start early!** This is likely a new type of assessment for most of you, so give yourself time to work out the technological kinks.
- Some students may wish to record and edit audio interviews with experts or individuals relevant to the topic or use music to make presentations more entertaining or relatable. Feel free to be as creative as possible, but remember, content and well-cited information are the two most important aspects. Everything else is just extra. Well-done, straightforward audio narration is totally acceptable.
- You should have decided on a topic for your podcast episode by 14th October 2022 and arrive at the podcast workshop in the week beginning 31st October 2022 with a plan for producing your podcast episode.

- Download and test playback on your uploaded podcast immediately after submitting it. This will ensure that it wasn't corrupted or interrupted during upload. There is no limit to re-uploads prior to the submission deadline, so if the first upload was not successful, try it again.

Digital and Media Resource and Troubleshooting Information

Software downloads and tutorials:

- Audacity software: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
- Quicktime software: <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/>
- Garage Band software: <http://www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/>
- iMovie software: <http://www.apple.com/ilife/imovie/>
- Windows Movie Maker software: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-live/movie-maker-get-started>
- VLC software: <http://www.videolan.org/>
- Firefox extensions: <https://addons.mozilla.org/>
- Chrome extensions: <http://www.chromeextensions.org/>