OUTLINE
PART 1, TEAM RESEARCH PROJECT
CRD 142: RURAL CHANGE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD
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OVERVIEW
The goal of the outline is to spend time thinking about your research project, including what is possible to answer over the remainder of the quarter. It also allows me and the TA to provide important feedback on your project as it is the formation stage. Your outline should include the following elements in no more than 2 pages:

1) A brief statement of your topic and research question. Specify in 2-3 paragraphs the current version of your topic and question. What do you plan to write about? What approach(es) do you plan to take (e.g., geographical, sociological, political economy, post-structural)? Keep in mind that you need a central research question that is answerable over the time span of a quarter.

2) A tentative structure specified in an outline, with headers and sub-headers if possible. How do you plan to organize your paper? This does not need to be a very detailed outline at this point, but you should lay out the sections into which you anticipate dividing your paper.

3) Identification of tasks, and allocation of these to team members, keeping the principle of equity in mind. These are subject to change as the project progresses, but should be initially specified. This allocation can be part of the outline.

4) After the structure, state what the problems and questions in relation to your project that most concern you, and try to pinpoint the next steps you’re planning to take.

5) Identify your sources. Identify at least one source of primary data and at least 5 relevant, academic, peer-reviewed sources. Secondary data in the form of databases can be very useful as well, but are not required.

A NOTE ON DATA SOURCES
Primary data refers to new information that is directly collected by the researcher — you! In social science, an example of a type of primary data collection is an interview with an individual in a position to provide information relevant to the research question. For more ideas and details about primary data collection methods in social science, see the brief readings on SmartSite (Resources/Team Research Project/Methods).

Secondary data refers to published data that has been gathered by another individual or research organization. An example of secondary data is information from the Census of Agriculture, created by the United States Department of Agriculture.

DUE DATE & GRADE
Your outline is due on Feb. 2 before class on SmartSite. It is worth 1% of your total course grade and is graded done/not done.