

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
Department of Political Science
Political Science 249
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2020

Guideline for Term Paper

I. You have the freedom to choose your own paper topic. However, I want you to write on something **contemporary** (things that have happened in the last 15 years). I have to approve your paper topic before you go ahead to write the paper. The deadline for choosing a topic for my approval is Sunday, October 18, 2020. This is mandatory. The final paper is due on Sunday, November 29, 2020. Late paper will be penalized by 20 points off.

II. Paper Organization

I expect to see a significant degree of explanation and/or interpretation in your paper. Description may be a necessary component of the paper, but purely descriptive papers will not score well.

This paper is expected to be 7-10 pages in length. You may organize the paper into the following several sections.

1. At the beginning of the paper, you should first state the main question that you want to answer in the paper and its significance, e.g., why BJP (the governing party in India) has been successful in winning the last two general elections in India. Then you should present in brief the main themes or arguments you are going to elaborate later in the paper. This section should be no more than one or two paragraphs.

2. Then, you may want to describe the event or the issue that you are going to explain. To use the previous example, you should describe how successful BJP was in winning consecutive general elections in India. The most important thing about this section is that it should not be the focus of your paper.

3. In the third section, you are expected to answer the "why" question. That is, how to explain the occurrence of the event you just described. To continue to use the previous example. You should explain what factors led to the successful elections of BJP party in India. This should be the main focus of your paper.

4. Finally, a couple of paragraphs are needed at the end of the paper to summarize or recap your findings and arguments and point out the implications of the research.

III. How To Do Your Footnotes (or Endnotes) and Bibliography

Your paper should be typed in double-space and properly footnoted or bibliographicalized. At least five outside sources (non-class materials) ought to be used in the paper.

1. What to be footnoted or bibliographicalized

- a. Quotations
- b. Facts (including figures)
- c. Commentary, analysis, and interpretation by others

2. Format of footnote

You should give full credit to authors you cite. You can type footnotes at the bottom of each page, or put all of them at the end of the paper (then they become endnotes). In footnoting, you are expected to follow the following format. If it is a book, you should include:

- a. Name of author(s), editors, or institutions responsible.
- b. Full title of the book.
- c. Editions, if not the original.
- d. Publisher's name.
- e. Date of publication.
- f. Page number.

Example: George Sabine, **A History of Political Theory** (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1961), pp.467-68.

If it is a journal, the format should be like this:

- a. Name of author.
- b. Title of article.
- c. Name of the journal.
- d. Volume number (issue number if any).
- e. Date of publication (usually month and year)

Example: Lester Ross, "Market reform and collective action", **Comparative Political Studies**, Vol. 19, no.2 (July 1986), pp.217-218.

If it is a magazine or newspaper article, you can omit the name of the author.

Example: "Tax changes for 1971: the plans take shape", ***U.S. News & World Report***, Oct. 5, 1970, p.91.

3. Format of bibliography

Footnote style can be changed into bibliographic style by transposing author's first and last names, removing parentheses from facts of publication, omitting page references, and repunctuating with periods instead of commas. For example, we can transform the footnote style of the first footnoting example into the following bibliography:

Sabine, George. ***A History of Political Theory***. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1961.

4. Using electronic sources

You can use electronic sources as references for your paper. But you have to be very careful about the sources you use. Try to avoid citing personal websites and websites of advocacy and political organizations.

a. Online scholarly project or reference database

Dickinson, Emily. "Hope." *Poems by Emily Dickinson*, 3rd series, Boston, 1896. *Project Bartleby Archive*. Ed. Steven van Leeuwen. 15 Dec. 1995 Columbia University, 11 June 1999 <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/dickinson/dickinson1.htm#3>.

b. Online book

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. *An Online Library of Literature*. Ed. Peter Galbavy. 14 Feb. 1999. 23 June 1999 <http://www.literature.org/Works/Mary-Shelley/frankenstein>.

c. Article in an online periodical

Coontz, Stephanie. "Family Myths, Family Realities." *Salon* 12 Dec. 1997. 3 Feb. 2000 <http://www.salonmagazine.com/mwt/feature/1997/12/23coontz.html>

d. Work from an online subscription service

Sleek, Scott. "Blame Your Peers, Not Your Parents, Author Says." *APA Monitor* 29. 1 (1998). America Online. 1 March 1999
Keyword: The Nurture Assumption.