

POLSC 1002 – First Assignment

Length: 1200 words (not including references)

Formatting: double-spaced

Due Date: March 16 at 11:59pm (see the syllabus details on late penalties)

Submit via Blackboard (find the link under “assignments”)

Complete an essay on the following prompt:

Why do some philosophers think politics in a state of anarchy is conflictual by nature, while others are more optimistic about the prospects for cooperation? What does the anarchic experiences of world politics and civil conflict tell us about which perspective is more accurate (discuss civil and interstate conflict)? Given your answer, what is the ideal way for individual states, and the international system to address the problem of anarchy (again, discuss both domestic and international-level responses)?

A “perfect essay” includes the following:

1. Clear intro paragraph (10 points)
 - a. You should clearly state the question that you will address, your argument, and the way in which you will go about answering your question (i.e. the authors, evidence, methods, etc., you use to substantiate your argument).
2. Accurate discussion of at least four authors and clear contrast of at least two perspectives on anarchy (20 points).
 - a. Do not assume that the reader knows the author or attended the lectures. Make sure to succinctly introduce and discuss the ideas from the readings.
3. Relevant application to the international level (20 points)
 - a. You should discuss at least one relevant case of anarchy at the international level that advances your argument
4. Relevant application to the domestic level (20 points)
 - a. You should at least discuss one relevant case of anarchy at the domestic level that advances your argument
5. Clear concluding paragraph (10 points)
 - a. The concluding paragraph should summarize key arguments, and draw appropriate implications
6. Grammar, citations, and word limit (20 points)
 - a. Use the APSA Style Guide for Citations and References (<http://www.psci.unt.edu/~pmcollins/APSA%20Citation%20and%20Reference%20Guidelines.pdf>)
 - b. Respect the word limit. I will take off points for essays that are either too long or short.