

**Govt 35: World Politics
Research Paper Rubric
Fall 2018**

Purpose/Description

An essential element to understand world politics is to analyze political issues and events. Identifying issues that you find interesting also creates opportunities to participate in politics. For this research paper, students must analyze a topic in world politics (an analysis of a foreign government or international issue that you find interesting). In addition, students need to apply methodologies or theories learned in class to the specific issue. The paper should represent the student's best attempt to apply the ideas presented in class to an issue of the student's choosing.

Due Dates:

Essay Topic: A short paragraph describing the background of your preferred issue area.
Must include at least 2-3 references.

DUE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Paper Outline: A brief paper outline. A sample outline is attached. Please cite references to main ideas within the outline

DUE: NOEMBER 11, 2018

Final Essay: Final Draft.

DUE: DECEMBER 4, 2018

Useful Web Sites.

<http://scholar.google.com>

General research tool.

[https://csus-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-](https://csus-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/jsearch?vid=01CALS_USL&lang=en_US)

[explore/jsearch?vid=01CALS_USL&lang=en_US](https://csus-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/jsearch?vid=01CALS_USL&lang=en_US)CSU Sacramento Journal database.

After finding articles through google scholar, you can gain access to many of those articles through the CSU Sacramento library webpage. I will do an in-class tutorial and demonstrate the research process.

Requirements for Final Essay

1. Essay must be at least 5 pages in length.
2. Double spaced with 1-inch margins.
3. Must have at least 4 references and include a bibliography.
4. Must follow a standard style guide: APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.
5. Must include a discussion of the world politics issue, (background, why it's important, etc), a brief discussion of a relevant theory or method, and an analysis of the significance or importance of the issue.

TWO TRACKS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

YOU MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN A COMPARATIVE POLITICS ESSAY OR AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ESSAY.

(If you have an idea that doesn't directly fit within this framework, but you want to know if it is acceptable for this assignment, please see me)

Comparative Politics Essay

1. Identify a political issue you care about: health care, education, gun control, etc.
 - a. There are many acceptable topics.
 - b. If you need assistance choosing a topic, please see me.
2. Choose and describe at least one of the following theories:
 - a. Structuralism
 - b. Culturalism
 - c. Rational Choice
3. Compare the constitution, policies, or political cultures of at least 2 states and make a connection with the political issue.
4. Apply the theory to the constitution/policy/culture in order to highlight similarities and differences between two states in the issue area of your choosing.
5. Identify how the theory helped analyze and compare the countries.

International Relations Paper

1. Identify a political issue you care about: Refugees, international trade/finance, etc
 - a. There are many acceptable topics
 - b. If you need assistance choosing a topic, please see me.
2. Choose and describe at least one of the following theories:
 - a. Realism
 - b. Liberalism
 - c. Social Constructivism
3. Identify and discuss an international actor that is somehow connected to your political issue:
 - a. UNHCR for refugees, WTO for trade, Doctors without Borders for health, etc.
 - b. There are many possible choices and issue combinations.
 - c. If needed, please see me for assistance.
4. Make a connection between the international actor and the issue area.
 - a. How has the actor impacted the issue area.
5. Apply a theory to the actor/issue area to highlight how theory helps or doesn't help interpret or understand the actions of international actors.

Grading Rubric for Research Paper Assignments

Paper Topic (100 pts):

20 pts: Student identified an issue in world politics.

70 pts: Student briefly discussed the background of a world politics issue.

10 pts: Student had at least 2 references from any combination of books, journal articles, or mainstream news sources.

Outline (100 pts):

25 pts: Student discussed background of a world politics issue.

25 pts: Student clearly identifies a theory or methodology introduced from class.

20 pts: Student highlights the connections between theory/methodology and the issue by analyzing supporting examples.

20 pts: Student discusses their own opinion and analysis.

10 pts: Student had at least 4 references from any combination of books, journal articles, or mainstream news sources, cited correctly within the outline.

Essay (100 pts):

35 pts: Introduce a world politics issue - discussed background and other relevant information. and making a connection with a theory or method introduced from class.

35 pts: Student describes a theory or method introduced in class in detail, and applies the theory to the world politics issue through the discussion of supporting examples.

20 pts: What is the impact of the world politics issue? Student provides their own opinion and analysis.

10 pts: References - Student has a works cited page with at least 4 books, journals, and news articles, as well as having 4 in-text citations.

FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS, DO NOT USE QUOTES UNLESS BRIEFLY QUOTING A POLITICIAN. OTHERWISE, ALL POTENTIAL QUOTES SHOULD BE PARAPHRASED IN YOUR OWN WORDS WITH A CITATION. EACH QUOTE WILL LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN POINTS TO BE DETERMINED BY INSTRUCTOR ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

SAMPLE ESSAY OUTLINE

I. Introduction:

General info about topic, reason for reader to be interested, context, etc.

Thesis statement:

II. Topic Sentence 1: (**OVERALL WORLD POLITICS ISSUE YOU WILL DISCUSS**)

A. Support

1. Detail/example/data/explanation
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

B. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

III. Topic Sentence 2: (**DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT THEORY/METHOD**)

A. Support

1. Detail/example/data/explanation
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

B. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

IV. Topic Sentence 3: (**CONNECT THEORY AND ISSUE USING SPECIFIC EXAMPLES**)

A. Support

1. Detail/example/data/explanation
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

B. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

V. Conclusion: (**IMPACT: HOW DOES THE ISSUE AFFECT WORLD POLITICS?**)

Re-state thesis:

Summary of main points, return to general context, wrap-up of essay, etc.

Criteria	Inadequate = D (Below Standard)	Adequate = C (Meets Standard)	Above Average = B (Exceeds Standard)	Exemplary = A (Far Exceeds Standards)
Follows Directions	Some significant failure to respond to assignment or untimely.	Responds acceptably to assignment in a timely fashion.	Responds reasonably well to assignment in timely fashion.	Responds fully and appropriately to the assignment in timely fashion.
Thesis	Very difficult to identify, unclear, and/or inappropriate for assignment.	Somewhat difficult to identify, unclear, and/or slightly inappropriate for assignment.	Identifiable, clear, and appropriate.	Easily identifiable, clear and concise, insightful, and appropriate for assignment.
Use of Evidence	Very weak use of source information (excessively secondary), fails to support thesis and/or sub-arguments, very weak integration of material into writing.	Sometimes weak use of source information (excessively secondary), inadequately supports thesis and/or subarguments, weak integration of quoted/paraphrased material into writing.	Appropriate source information used to support thesis and to buttress most arguments, good integration of sources into writing.	Appropriate source information (typically primary) used to support thesis and buttress all arguments made in essay, excellent integration of quoted/paraphrased material into writing.
Analysis, Logic and Argumentation	Lacks support for arguments, unfocused, uses irrelevant information to support thesis.	Insufficient support for some arguments, assertions are vague or lack focus, support offered is sometimes irrelevant, tangential or repetitive.	Thesis is generally supported by logically compelling assertions and appropriate connections.	All ideas progress logically from an identifiable thesis, compelling justifications are offered to support thesis, counter-arguments are anticipated and addressed, appropriate connections are made to outside material.
Organization	Incoherent, lacks support for thesis, transitions weak and often missing.	Often lacks coherence, mixed support for thesis, transitions often missing or weak.	Mostly coherent, generally supports thesis, good transitions.	Coherent and clear, all paragraphs support thesis statement, each paragraph supports its topic sentence, excellent transitions.
Mechanics (Grammar, Spelling, Language Usage, Sentence Structure).	Weak use of language, poor grammar, and numerous mechanical errors undermine coherence, weak citation format.	Generally proper use of grammar/writing conventions, but with simple sentences generally lacking variety/complexity in structure, acceptable citation format.	Good command of language, generally proper use of grammar/writing conventions, minimal misspelled words, largely good word choice, some variety and complexity in sentence structure, generally uses proper citation format	Excellent command of language, proper use of grammar/writing conventions, few to no misspelled words, correct word choice, excellent variety and complexity of sentence structure, uses proper citation format.