

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL PAPER

Our final project will be a paper of ~7 pages (excluding references). The open-ended nature of the paper will still give you a lot of room to be creative. The direction that you can take the paper is:

1) focus the paper on a particular place/region, and devote the body of the paper to ~ five themes/concepts

The Region I chose: India

Example: Let's say that you are interested in Iceland. You could then select themes/concepts/issues that are relevant in that context and devote the bulk of the paper to discussing these concepts/themes/issues with relevant examples in the Icelandic context--perhaps things like language, migration, some environmental issue, economic development, etc.

References: Papers should be well-researched, and include a minimum of ten references. At least one reference should be from an academic source. Google Scholar and academic search platforms through the library are good places to look for academic source material. Wikipedia should not be used as a reference, though it can be a good place to start--all Wikipedia pages contain reference lists at the bottom, so you can certainly utilize Wikipedia as a conduit to actual references.

All source material should be cited in the body of the paper (i.e., Biermann and Baginski 2020), and should then be included in the References/Works Cited/Bibliography at the end of the paper.

You can use any citation style you prefer (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) so long as it is consistent throughout.

Depth and Critical Analysis: Good papers will demonstrate a high degree of depth, understanding, and critical analysis of the material discussed. If you choose to focus your paper on ecotourism, for instance, perhaps you would include Costa Rica, perhaps the largest ecotourism economy in the world, as one of your examples. You might refer to official publications and marketing materials from the Costa Rican Bureau of Tourism. What I would consider to **not** be a deep understanding and critical analysis would be to simply take and discuss this material at face value with a result of something that could be distilled down to, "Ecotourism in Costa Rica is great." What I **would** consider to be a good job in this hypothetical example would be to still refer to such materials from Costa Rican ecotourism promotion, but to dig deeper, and to interpret such a source in an appropriate context. Cite other material that provides a differing, critical perspective, discuss who benefits from ecotourism and who doesn't, what are some of the drawbacks and negative impacts on ecosystems in the Costa Rican context?

Another hypothetical example would be if you decided to focus on corporate sustainability initiatives in the global commodity chain. You could and should look at things like Nike's sustainability reports, for instance, but you certainly should not take such things at face value but should present them in context (as a form of corporate propaganda).

Another example: if you are focusing on something in China, a country with pretty strong degrees of state-controlled media, you might refer to an article from the *China Daily* that talks

about how there are no human rights abuses in Xinjiang Province, but you should acknowledge the context and position, perhaps citing a UN report that says otherwise.

In other words, I am not looking for a paper that is simply informational and superficial. I want you to dig deeper, demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of whatever/wherever it is you decide to focus.

Topic Selection: I *think* that the instructions for how to structure and proceed with your paper are pretty clear. If you feel good about what you are going to do, you can proceed with writing at your own pace and turn it into me by Monday, May 11th. If you are uncertain of whether your topic is a good one or just want to talk it over, I would be happy to discuss this with you and can probably provide some advice and ideas of directions for you to take this. If your question is more nebulous than a direct question (Is this a good topic?) and would benefit from discussion, I prefer a phone call over email.

Structure of Paper:

Page One: Introduction--what is the object you are going to focus on? Why is it relevant? Why do you care about it? What are the implications of it? etc.--think about questions like these as you write the introduction

Pages Two-Six: devote about a page to each of your examples.

Page Seven: Conclusion--what are the big takeaways? Implications for the future? Interesting findings?

You can include figures, maps, tables, etc. if they really drive home a point that you are trying to make, but please avoid throwing maps and images into the paper to fill up space. If including such material does not add significantly to your discussion, please leave them out.

Recommendations:

Use headings to segment your paper into specific sections. This will both make your paper more readable **and** make it easier for you to write in a more focused manner (instead of including random things throughout the paper)