

POLSC 1002 –Second Assignment

Length: 1200 words (not including references)

Formatting: double-spaced

Due Date: April 13 at 11:59pm

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

Complete an essay on the following prompt:

Sketch out a vision for your ideal society, assuming moderate scarcity and similar levels of technology to those existing today. Contrast the role of the state (if any) in your ideal society with at least three competing visions of a just society investigated in class. Why do you think your vision would best achieve the good life? Then imagine that your society is facing the COVID-19 pandemic. How would such crisis be handled in your ideal society?

A “perfect essay” includes the following:

1. Clear intro paragraph (10 points)
 - a. You should clearly state the (1) question that you will address, (2) your argument, and the (3) way in which you will go about answering your question (i.e. the authors, evidence, methods, etc., you use to substantiate your argument).
2. Construct a well-reasoned rationale for your ideal society, explaining why you believe such a society could achieve the good life (20 points)
3. Effectively summarize and contrast with three competing visions of an ideal society, drawn from the readings. Remember to discuss the readings **in light of your argument** (20 points)
 - a. Address at least three of the following pieces: Graeber (anarchism), Weber (politics as a vocation), Friedman (free to choose), Olson (collective action), Tilly (war-making and the state), Burke (reflections on the French Revolution), Rawls (theory of justice).
 - b. 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.
4. Explain how you might address the COVID-19 crisis and discuss some of the contradictions in your own ideal model (20 points)
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. Make sure to follow the APSA style guides. This time around, I will automatically subtract 10 points if you do not.
- c. Respect the word limit. I will take off points for essays that are either too long or short.