

Honors American Political Systems

Fall 2020

Research Paper: Multipart Assignment

Due Dates:

- Step 1: Submit an individual paper proposal (5 points towards research paper) **no later than noon on Wed, Nov. 25**. See directions below.
 - Step 2: Work with your facilitator group and post a powerpoint synopsis of your project no later than **Sunday at noon, Dec. 6**. Your PowerPoint presentation should try to synthesize your various individual topics into a coherent whole.
 - Step 3: Submit your 7-10 page PDF or Word doc research paper **no later than midnight on Monday, Dec. 14**
-

Paper Prompt:

Throughout the semester, we've examined American political institutions from a variety of perspectives and theories. Our class has covered topics related to the structure of US political institutions, voting, civil liberties, the judiciary and contemporary political culture. Your task in your research paper is to reflect back on our course materials as a starting point to develop your own ideas about how the American political system should handle issues related to an inclusive system of governance. Using a minimum of three research sources, your project should address the following question:

Using the topic that you presented in class as a starting point, what aspect of the American political system do you think is in most need of reform and why?

❑ **Step 1:** Submit a Word Doc or PDF that addresses the questions below:

1. What topic will you take on and how is that topic related to the American system of government? To your previous presentation?
2. How does your topic expand on the themes and issues discussed in class so far?

3. What types of current political situations, if any, are relevant to your topic?

4. What kind of research will you undertake to learn about your topic?

5. What do you hope to learn?

❑ Step 2: Powerpoint - Discussion Board

Create a Powerpoint (or other visual aid) that provides an overview of how your group's individual topics relate to one another. Your powerpoint should make clear how each group member's paper makes a contribution to understanding the theme of your presentation.. It should contain approximately 12-15 slides.

❑ Step 3: Submission of Essay:

Your essay, due on Dec. 14, must be submitted on Blackboard in a Word or PDF format no later than midnight.

Grading Criteria:

Your paper will be evaluated by the originality, depth and complexity of your argument, your ability to critically analyze and work productively with texts, your ability to organize your ideas in a coherent and graceful manner, and your ability to effectively incorporate outside sources into your essay. The rubric is available as a separate link on Blackboard.

Technical Guidelines:

Be sure to abide by MLA or Chicago formatting conventions and also proofread your work very carefully. You must include a Works Cited page and document all of your sources. You are responsible for getting your paper to me on the date that it is due. Given end of semester time constraints, papers must be turned in on time. I cannot submit a passing grade for you if I do not have your essay.