

4421-101 Research Project

There is one large writing assignment in this course, a research paper, worth 40% of your final grade. The final paper will be 12-15 pages and utilize at least five (5) academic sources. This means that you will be required to find information about your topic independently (outside of class time) and pace yourself to work on the project throughout the semester. To help you remain motivated to work on the paper, the project includes a few smaller assignments which are due throughout the semester, and help you build the final draft. These are outlined and explained at the end of this document

Research paper assignments must be uploaded as a document to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 11:59 PM on the due dates listed in the schedule below. The document must be one of the following file types: .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .pdf – note that Apple Pages cannot be read by D2L. Unreadable files will receive no points.

Late assignments will be penalized (and could receive zero points) depending on how late and the context. Late final drafts **will not be allowed** since the paper is due very close to the end of the semester. You should also note that **I will not accept a final draft if you have not completed all of the supporting assignments**. This means that skipping the small assignments and handing me a paper at the end of the course will result in losing 40% of your final grade. To put this another way, it is practically impossible to pass this course if you do not turn in all of the research paper assignments.

Like the exams, the final paper will be checked using the Turnitin.com service. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a zero for the paper *at minimum* and will likely mean a conversation with the university administration. There is no excuse for plagiarism, and you will be found out if you try it. I have included on D2L some resources to help you identify and avoid plagiarism, in case you are not confident about avoiding it. The writing center is also a good resource; you may of course always ask me for help too.

Choose a Research Question

You will answer *one* of the three questions below. This is a research paper, and so I expect you to find information about the country that you are choosing. You should look not only at news magazines like *The Economist* but also at books and scholarly journals that may carry articles on your country. Be aware of the dates of your sources, and ensure that you

are citing all information from sources using one of the author-date methods (i.e. APA or Chicago). You are responsible for knowing the current structure of the political system of the country you choose, as well as its current economic and social conditions. Citation and other formatting guidelines appear later in this document, and will be covered in class.

- (1) Choose a non-democratic country anywhere in the world. Describe the elements of the political system that make this a non-democracy, and provide a brief explanation for how they got that way. Then, employing the various causal factors and theoretical arguments about them that we have examined this semester, assess the prospects for democratization occurring in this country in the near term (next three to five years) and medium term (next ten to twenty years). Of the various factors you examine, which ones should scholars be paying especially close attention to in this case, and why?
- (2) Choose a country anywhere in the world that has democratized in the last ten to fifteen years but that you consider to be a consolidated democracy. Paying particular attention to the transition from established to consolidated democracy, explain the democratization process in this country, employing the various causal factors and theoretical arguments about them that we have examined this semester. Given its relative infancy, why are you so confident that this democracy is already consolidated? What lessons can we draw from this case about democratic consolidation in other cases?
- (3) Choose a country anywhere in the world that has democratized in the last ten to fifteen years that you do not consider to be a consolidated democracy. Explain the democratization process in this country, employing the various causal factors and theoretical arguments about them that we have examined this semester. Why is this democracy not yet consolidated? What are the prospects for consolidation in the near term (next three to five years) and medium term (next ten years)? Why? What lessons can we draw from this case of non-consolidation about the process of democratic consolidation in other cases?

Formatting Guidelines

You *must* follow these guidelines when writing your research paper. Failure to do so will almost certainly mean a severely lowered grade on the final paper.

General Formatting

Length: The final paper must be between 12 and 15 *double-spaced* pages in length. One of these pages may be a title page, and one of these pages may be references. This means that

at minimum you will have ten (10) pages of research paper.

Font: You must use one of the following font/size combinations: Times New Roman/12pt, Calibri/12pt, Helvetica/11pt, Arial/11pt. Do not use any other font for the text for the text of the paper and the references. I will allow section headings to be upsized to 14pt font if you want. You may use any combination of these fonts and any size for the title page only.

Margins: You must have 1 inch margins (all sides) for your double-spaced document.

Page Numbers: You must include a page number on every page, except for the title page. You must start numbering with the first page of text (the one after the title page). The page number should be in the footer and may be either in the center or the right corner.

Spacing: Do not include any extra spacing between paragraphs, words, or punctuation. You may indent the first line of each paragraph if you would like. Section headings may be used but do not include an extra line spacing here either. This means that the entire document should be double-spaced and there should be no triple-spacing or other added vertical white space in the text. The only exception is the reference list and footnotes, which should always be single-spaced with a single line skip between entries.

References: All references are author-date in the text and correspond to either: 1) footnotes with complete citation; or 2) a works cited list at the end of the essay. If endnotes rather than footnotes are your preference, that is acceptable.

Referencing Information

Part of writing a good research paper is including evidence to back up your point. You can use the required material to do this, but it is also necessary to include outside information. When you include information from a source not on the syllabus, it must be either: a) published for an academic audience; or b) created for public consumption by journalists (*not* opinion/editorial).

This means that a news story on U.S. military casualties in Iraq, federal government reports on the environmental impact of coal, or an article on school choice in an academic journal are acceptable. However, the following sources and others like them may not be used as evidence: opinion pieces, blogs, social media accounts, or publications espousing the author's particular viewpoint. For instance, a political campaign's policy statement, a Tweet about the \$15/hour wage campaign, or an opinion piece in a magazine are not acceptable. **You**

should never cite the spoken lecture or the lecture slides; seek out the material in its original source (usually, in the required readings).

Be mindful of plagiarism– see the *Academic Misconduct* section of the syllabus. There are resources to identify and avoid plagiarism located on D2L. If you are unsure if you might be plagiarizing, review the examples in these resources, and if necessary ask me. As the University of Indiana web page instructs, you must give credit whenever you use the ideas, opinions, written or spoken words, facts, or materials generated by another person when that information is not public knowledge. This *absolutely* includes information from the required readings that you might want to use in your paper.

Any references to evidence in the paper should be included using the author-date citation format common to APA/Chicago-Turabian reference styles. The citation itself should be included as a footnote or as a works cited section at the end of the essay depending on which method you are using. The first page of footnotes or works cited sections will count towards the length of your essay but subsequent pages of references will not. **Failure to include the author-date reference and the full citation in a footnote or in the works cited constitutes plagiarism.** You have been warned. Here are some examples of how to use author-date references:

1. In Hobbes' vision of the state of nature, people are constantly in conflict over resources due to their natural desire for power (Dooley and Patten 2015, p. 69).
2. As Bellin (2005) argues, resources like oil wealth allow autocrats to create and maintain large security forces to limit mass mobilization against the regime.

Project Assignments

As part of the research paper project you will fill out a prospectus worksheet where you select the question you will answer. Other components of the project include a 1-2 page outline, an annotated bibliography, a short draft for peer review, a peer review of another student paper, and the final draft. These assignments and their deadlines are explained below.

Each of these assignments must be completed to get a grade on the research project. You can turn in all but the last assignment late if needed, but understand this will mean losing points.

Prospectus worksheet

Due in class Thursday 01/24. 10 points; 2.5% of research project grade.

A *prospectus* is a document that advertises or describes a project in order to inform interested parties of the basics involved in the project. Any time you write a large paper like this, you should also be making a roadmap as well - that is the point of this assignment. I have several questions on a worksheet which you will fill in and return to me. This helps you start thinking about the project and helps me ensure you are on the right track.

Suggested reading: LaVaque-Manty and LaVaque-Manty (2015) Ch. 2

Project Outline

Due on D2L Friday 02/08. 10 points; 5% of research project grade.

Any good essay or paper starts with a carefully crafted outline. In this assignment, you will be submitting a 1-2 page outline which sketches out the sections of your research paper. I want to see that you have thought carefully about how to translate your chosen research question into prose. You should include the sections you intend to develop and where possible indicate the use of sources and outside information.

Suggested reading: LaVaque-Manty and LaVaque-Manty (2015) Ch. 1 and Ch. 3

Annotated Bibliography

Due on Friday 03/01. 10 points; 5% of research project grade.

An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that gives a summary of each of the entries. The purpose of annotations is to provide the reader with a summary and an evaluation of each source. For this assignment, you will list five sources you intend to use for the paper and write two paragraphs for each of the five entries. The first paragraph will summarize the content of the source. The second paragraph will indicate how the source is used in the paper as well as any potential theoretical or empirical issues relative to your project.

Suggested reading: LaVaque-Manty and LaVaque-Manty (2015) Ch. 7

Short Draft

Due Friday 04/05. 10 points; 5% of research project grade.

This assignment involves competing a rough draft of the final paper and uploading it to D2L. The draft can be incomplete as long as it includes five (5) pages of text. It is in your best interest to provide as complete of a draft as possible, since it will be assigned to another student to review. More complete drafts mean more useful comments from the reviewer, in my experience.

Suggested reading: LaVaque-Manty and LaVaque-Manty (2015) Ch. 6

Peer Review

Due in class Thursday 04/11 and comments uploaded to D2L by Friday 04/12. Review is 10 points; 5% of project grade, comments to reviewer is 10 points; 2.5% of project grade.

You will read another student's paper (I will assign these randomly) and provide as many helpful comments as possible. I expect that you will have about a page of comments for the paper you are reviewing. In class Thursday 04/11 we will go around the room and you will have a chance to summarize and *gently* critique the paper you reviewed. The point is to help the person, not to destroy their paper. You will give the person your comments so that they can complete the reviewer response.

You are responsible for uploading to D2L a few paragraphs responding to your reviewer the following day (Friday 04/12). The point of this is to identify and articulate a plan for incorporating their advice into your final draft. If you disagree with something they want fixed, you have to explain why you will not be changing that part of the draft.

Final Draft

Due Friday 04/26. 100 points; 75% of research project grade.

You will submit your final draft to D2L in a file format that can be checked by Turnitin.com and which follows all formatting conventions listed above. This is the only assignment in the research project which **cannot be submitted late for any reason**. If you have concerns, you must reach out to me immediately.