



Department of Political Science and International Studies
PSC 100- Introduction to Government and World Affairs

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Course Website: <http://ut.blackboard.com>

Office Hours: see syllabus and by appointment (email me)

RESEARCH PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

It is incumbent upon students that submitted papers adhere to academic rules concerning plagiarism, citation, and class presentation. Moreover, students should ensure that all submissions include their name, the class and section numbers, the instructor's name and semester/year, the due date of the assignment, as well as the name of the assignment. *Failure to do so will negatively affect their grade.*

General guidelines

- For this research project, students will examine a particular issue of interest to them about a foreign country. Students will start their paper with a research question and test their hypothesis.
- Excluding the bibliography, the paper should be at least 3,600 words (double-spaced Times New Roman, 12pt with 1" margins on all sides, 15 pages). The paper should contain **a minimum of ten (10) scholarly references.**
- Students *must submit their research papers through Turnitin (BLACKBOARD) as well as provide the instructor a hard copy. Failure to do as instructed will lead to a zero grade. No exceptions.*
- Finally, students will present their findings to the class toward the end of the semester. **Presentation of the paper is part of the paper final grade up to 20%.**

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

1. By this time students should already have found their research topic and **formulated their research question**. *Students' papers should provide enough information for any outsider to understand the basics about the issue they are dealing with in the paper and country they selected.*
2. **The goal of this research is to answer the main research question.** In order to that, students will have to rely on previously published research. *Students must use scholarly sources such as academic books, peer-reviewed papers, scientific reports as well as other reliable sources such as government documents or independent reports.* Students can use newspapers and magazines for any critical info about the issue and country of their choice, but these should not be the main sources of info for their paper.
3. **Students are strongly advised to consider the academic dishonesty policy when writing their paper.** If students use any information that is not of their own making, students must indicate the source (reference).
4. Finally, an example of the structure of a typical paper is provided below:

Steps in Writing a Research Paper

Abstract (a brief outline of what you will be talking about in this paper. It gives the reader a preview of what to come) [**optional**]

- I. Introduction (general presentation of the research topic, the research question and the paper thesis).
- II. The body of the paper (this includes the paragraphs that develop your thesis as well as explain your ideas by backing them up with examples or evidence).
 - a. *This section can be subdivided into multiples section depending on how many points you want to argue.*
- III. Conclusions (briefly restate what you have done in the paper and conclude the paper)
- IV. Works Cited (this page provides the references that you use in this paper to support your thesis. *Only put in this page the ones that you actually cited here not all you read for this project*).

Please visit this website if you need help in writing and organizing your research paper:

<https://www.esc.edu/online-writing-center/resources/research/research-paper-steps/>

EXAMPLE OF WORKS CITED PAGE AT THE END OF YOUR PAPER

Topic: Healthcare reform in the U.S. (American Journal of Political Science style of citation).

- Béland D, P. Rocco, and A. Waddan. 2014. Implementing health care reform in the United States: Intergovernmental politics and the dilemmas of institutional design. *Health Policy* 116, 1: 51-60.
- Brill, S. 2013. Bitter pill: Why medical bills are killing us. *Time* (February 20). Retrieved August 7, 2015. Online at <http://healthland.time.com/2013/02/20/bitter-pill-why-medical-bills-are-killing-us/>.
- Hacker, J. 2010. The road to somewhere: Why health care reform happened. *Perspectives on Politics* 8, 3: 861-876.
- Hoffman, C. 2009. *National health insurance: A brief history of reform efforts in the U.S.* Menlo Park, CA: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Quadagno, J. S. 2006. *One nation, uninsured: Why the U.S. has no national health insurance.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press.