

POLI 12 - Discussion Section

TA: Chris Chiego
Office: SSB 343
E-mail: cchiego@gmail.com
Office Hours: Friday 10-12 or by appt.

Summary: This section is intended to help you understand and ask questions about the lecture and reading. Two response papers (20%) and periodic participation (10%) required for full credit.

Goals of the Discussion Section

The discussion section component of Poli 12 is a chance for students to engage the class material in a way that goes beyond listening to the lecture. My intention is not to force any specific viewpoint on you; rather, I hope to clarify the readings and help you think critically about the major concepts we discuss.

Discussion Section Grades

This discussion section will be 30% of your overall grade for the class. It will be divided as follows:

- 20% - *Two Response Papers*: Each class we will discuss different mechanisms, processes, and ways of looking at international relations. Since we will focus most of class time on explaining the general concepts, we will not have much time to cover specific examples. Therefore, these response papers are designed to help you apply the theories and tools discussed in the readings to modern-day or historical events. They should also be useful preparation for the essay portions of the midterm and final.

In each response paper, be sure to include: 1) a brief summation of the event (1 paragraph) 2) a brief discussion of the tools you will use (1 paragraph) 3) an application of the tools we discussed to the event (2-3 paragraphs). Aim for approximately 750 words (should be 2-2.5 pages, double-spaced). These are analytic, not descriptive, papers; you must be concise in your description and focus on the application of the ideas and concepts we learned in class. Please use footnotes to cite sources (any style that you prefer, so long as it's consistent). Note that Wikipedia or anything of its ilk is not considered an acceptable source.

The topic for these papers is any idea we've covered in the course through the day the paper is due and any historical or current event that might be explained through these processes. The papers will be due in class on Week 4 (April 14/15) and Week 8 (May 19/20). Each paper will count 10% of your final grade for the course. If you have any questions about these assignments, please let me know.

- 10% - *Participation*: Students are expected to participate in discussions during each session. Quality will matter as well as quantity. To earn full credit in participation, aim for at least several insightful comments or questions in class over the course of the quarter. If you have any concerns about speaking during section, I'll be happy to help.

***I will occasionally call on students to share their thoughts during section to ensure that everyone gets a chance to speak during class and to gauge your understanding of the reading. I also reserve the right to institute pop quizzes if it appears most students are not keeping up with the readings.**

Questions?

Please feel free to bring up any questions about the readings or lecture during discussion section. Broad questions are particularly appropriate for section time; specific questions or questions about the class itself should be addressed to me either via email or at office hours. I encourage students to attend office hours to clarify any questions they might have before exams, rather than waiting until later.

⁰Outline of this syllabus based on LaTeX source code from Marc Corluy of UConn