Political Science 115—Instructions for Term Paper

1. The term paper is due after you take the final exam. The paper will require you to do some research on a question in contemporary American politics.

2. The term paper should be five pages in length. It must not be less than five full pages. A term paper less than five full pages will be graded down accordingly. A term paper over seven pages will not be corrected; it will be returned for editing.

3. The term paper must be saved in Word or as a Rich Text Format (RTF) file on your computer. Use normal, 1-inch, top and bottom margins. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font. Your paper should be double-spaced.

4. The term paper should have a title page. (This does not count as one of your written pages. It should NOT have a page number!) This should include the title (obviously), your name, the date, and the course name and number. Don’t forget to add page numbers.

5. Use the assigned readings and course notes as primary sources of material. IMPORTANT! For this paper, you must use at least TWO references (i.e., quote or key idea) from an article or published piece from the Web site or paper version of ONE of the following publications:

   The American Enterprise  The American Prospect  The American Spectator
   The Atlantic  Commentary  The Economist
   Foreign Affairs  Foreign Policy  Harpers
   The Nation  The National Review  The New Republic
   The Washington Post

   Note: you may use other sources, but if you do so, you must get Professor Jendrysik’s permission.

   REQUIRED: In your paper, you must use proper reference style. (Should you have questions about this contact me.)

   Failure to follow this requirement will result in the automatic loss of 10 points from your final grade.

6. I will be glad to look over any outlines or drafts you produce. You are required to submit one draft in lesson 13 for my comments.
7. I do not generally take off points for misspelling or unusual grammatical construction. However, I reserve the right to do so if such errors materially affect the quality of the term paper.

8. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE CONFUSED, ASK ME! PLEASE!

9. Outline of term paper:

   a. Define the terms you are using. (Use your own terms. Don’t rely on the dictionary!)
   b. Discuss the issues raised by the question you are answering.
   c. Consider the pros and cons of the question. (In other words, provide reasons why some people might support the idea and why some might object to the idea. One or two examples should be enough.)

TERM PAPER TOPICS

Pick ONE of the following topics for your term paper. I will revise the topics to reflect the issues that arise during the time you take to complete this course.

1. The United States should leave the United Nations.

2. The United States should withdraw its troops from Iraq immediately.

3. The United States should use military means to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons.

4. All schools (public and private) should be required to have armed security guards or police at all times.

5. The president should be elected for one six-year term.

6. Medical care should be free to all (like in Canada).

7. Oil exploration and drilling should not be allowed in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

8. The death penalty should be reestablished in North Dakota. (Note: there is currently no death penalty for crimes committed in North Dakota. You can be sentenced to death for FEDERAL crimes committed in ND, but not for state crimes.) Note: If you are not in North Dakota, you may discuss other issues related to the death penalty.

Important note: See “Common Problems with Student Papers.” If you make the mistakes listed there, you can expect your paper to be graded downward accordingly.