

Power and Politics in Today's World
PLSC 405; GLBL444/888; MGT 619; HIST 122; EP&E 329; LAW 20117

Paper 1 topics: Answer any one question
8-10 pages in 12 point type with regular margins
Due by midnight on October 21, 2019
To be submitted via email to your assigned Teaching Fellow

1. Assess the relative importance of interests, institutions, and ideas in the formation of NATO and its expansion since 1989?
2. To what extent have political parties in the US and Britain behaved in ways that fit the Median Voter Theorem's predictions since the 1980s? Are there other political science concepts discussed in this course that better help us understand whether and under what conditions politicians will cater to the median voter? What are they?
3. How does Albert Hirschman's framework of exit, voice, and loyalty help explain the divergent experiences of the Soviet Union on the one hand and of China and Vietnam on the other in pursuing reform in the since the 1980s?
4. It has been suggested that the price of reducing absolute poverty might be increased relative inequality. Do you agree? Why or why not? Make sure to address issues of loss aversion, prospects for gain, and different types of relative standing in your answer.
5. Are there some goods and services that should be provided by government even if we agree that privatization always leads to a more efficient provision? Discuss with reference to local government and either prisons or the military.
6. Identify two potential threats to the stability of Communist Party rule in China. How might the regime try to head them off, and how successful is it likely to be? What does your answer tell you about the usefulness of modernization theory?

Paper Guidelines:

Students in this course will write two papers, due by midnight **on 10/21 and 12/6**, respectively. This document provides a few guidelines for these assignments.

Length & Formatting:

1. Papers are to be 8-10 pages double-spaced in length
2. 12 point font, standard margins
3. Papers should use in-text citations and include a works cited page, which does not count toward the length requirement, nor against the length limit. Students may use any academic citation style, but use should be consistent throughout the paper.
4. Submit as **Word.doc** to your assigned TF

Course policy on late papers:

1. We accept Dean's Excuses for late work
2. Without a Dean's Excuse, papers will be downgraded by half a letter grade (e.g. A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B etc...) for every full 6 hours that pass after the submission deadline

Drawing from the course material:

1. Only incorporating required readings and lecture material is necessary

Strong papers will:

1. Follow the formatting and citation guidelines above
2. Answer the question that is posed
3. Provide a clear thesis statement