

## **Second Term 2,000-Word Essay Assignment**

### **Due Date**

The essay is due Friday, March 16, 2018.

### **Length**

As in the first term, the essay should be approximately 2,000 words. The minimum permissible length is 1,900 words, the maximum permissible length is 2,100 words – excluding bibliography and cover page. This is around seven or eight pages, typed, 12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins.

### **Submitting Your Essay**

A hard copy of the essay must be submitted at a specific time and location to be announced in class and posted on the OWL site. An electronic copy of *the same* essay must be submitted electronically on the OWL site **after you submit the hard copy**. This registers your essay with turnitin.com, the plagiarism-detecting web site. More details about the turnitin submission will be posted on the OWL site.

### **How To Write an Essay**

You are strongly encouraged to reread Charles Jones, 'How to Write an Essay' for guidance on the preparation of an effective argumentative essay.

### **Essay Questions**

1. Considering two country cases from South America, Africa, and/or Asia, what are some of the major ways in which the state can influence the process of economic development? In your view, is the state's developmental role generally positive or negative?
2. On balance, has globalization's impact been positive or negative? Please consider from the standpoint of two countries.
3. Andrew Heywood, in Chapter 12 of *Politics*, makes use of the category of East Asian regimes. Consider China in relation to one of the following countries: South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan. What do these countries share, how do they differ, and is this category in your view a useful one?
4. Is Quebec a nation? How about Canada as well? Why or why not?
5. Considering two cases of attempted or accomplished secession, what are the difficulties and challenges associated with the attempt to assert a right of a nation or 'people' to self-determination? Is it nonetheless worth pursuing?
6. Considering two federations, what are the different ways in which federalism can be organized, and do these differences matter?
7. Considering the experience of one country with compulsory voting, and one in which voting is voluntary, does compulsory voting tend to enhance the quality of democracy?

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8. Considering the experience of one country with a proportional representation electoral system and one country with a so-called majoritarian electoral system (including single-member plurality or first-past-the-post), which system offers the better way of organizing a democracy, and why?
9. Why are youth in North America and/or Western Europe not participating in formal politics (e.g. voting, political parties, and campaigns)? Please consider two countries.
10. Considering the experience of two established democracies in Western Europe and/or North America, is there a general crisis of participation in modern democracy? In your estimation, how serious a problem is it?

### **Research Materials**

The key difference from the last term essay is that you will now be expected to find your own research materials. These questions all touch on readings from our syllabus, and you are encouraged to make use of these in the preparation of your essay. You will also be expected to incorporate **at least five additional scholarly research materials** in order to enable you to extend your analysis well beyond the course readings, lectures, and discussions. We want to see good scholarly sources, such as academic journal articles or chapters from single-author or edited books acquired either from the library or through the library's online services. If you are unsure as to whether a particular source is an acceptable one, please check with your TA or professor. The research librarians at Weldon can also be a very helpful source of assistance with your research needs and concerns. Internet sources may be acceptable in some limited circumstances, but they should only be used when the source is clearly official or otherwise highly reliable – an important and well researched think tank report for instance. Textbooks from outside the course are not counted among your additional academic sources, and should be used sparingly, only for limited factual or statistical data – never for arguments. Newspapers, dissertations, and magazines will not count as additional scholarly sources, and you should use them sparingly.

### **Criteria for Grading Your Essay**

Your essay will be graded according to the following scholarly criteria:

- (1) the quality and appropriateness of your selected research materials;
- (2) your ability to work critically with these materials as well as any relevant readings from the syllabus;
- (3) your ability to establish, develop, and defend an argument;
- (4) the clarity and organization of your writing.