

**POLI 347: Research Essay**

<u><b>Critical Reflection and Argument</b></u>	<u><b>Structure and Organization</b></u>	<u><b>Writing and Citation</b></u>
<p><b>Argument</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate a thorough understanding of at least three scholarly sources</li> <li>• Synthesize material effectively and concisely</li> <li>• Appropriate level of detail</li> <li>• More analysis than description</li> <li>• Focus on 1-3 points and elaborate on them fully</li> <li>• Claims are supported by evidence and thoughtful reflection (move past the emotional into the reflective)</li> <li>• Research is supplemented by your own ideas</li> </ul> <p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly present the political significance of the argument being made</li> <li>• Describe the world view or context for the argument</li> <li>• If writing on an artistic representation, ensure that your writing is not a review</li> <li>• Explore <i>how</i> the texts/representations you are engaging are presented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly defined question with a response suggested by a strong thesis statement</li> <li>• Well structured: thesis statement is well supported throughout the essay by well developed points</li> <li>• Introduction is convincing and sets up the problem the paper takes up</li> <li>• Conclusion reinforces the argument in the body of the paper and explains why it is significant and for whom</li> <li>• Cohesive paragraphs, with clear topic sentences</li> <li>• Essay is focused and stays on topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coherent flow and stylistically polished</li> <li>• Attention to the tone and argument you're making</li> <li>• Avoid overly casual tone</li> <li>• Avoid generalizations and repetitions of ideas</li> <li>• Concise</li> <li>• Refrain from jargon and clichés</li> <li>• Correct use of style and citations (Chicago, MLA, etc)</li> <li>• Quotations are introduced, explained effectively, and well integrated into the body of the paper</li> <li>• Appropriate length (about 2500 words, 10-12 pages double-spaced)</li> <li>• No <b>obvious</b> spelling or grammar errors</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p>

**Grade:**