

Current Event Rubric

August 27, 2019

This assignment is designed to encourage students to engage with current events in the developing world and apply their knowledge from the course. The assignment has five sections, listed below. On the dates below, you must submit a draft of the section for that week of the course. These must be submitted by noon on the day it is due to receive full credit and feedback. Once the deadline passes you will be docked 20% of the grade from the draft, incurring an additional 20% penalty every 24 hours.

Structure

Choose a current event that has taken place in the last year or is currently taking place in developing areas of the world. The event should deal with the political economy of developing areas. Appropriate current events could include contentious elections, large scale protests, civil war, institutional conflict, changes in health outcomes, changes in education access, and changes in inequality. These suggestions are not all encompassing.

I am happy to give verbal feedback at anytime during the course on the appropriateness of a current event. If you are unsure where to begin in finding a current event to analyze, I recommend the world news sections of The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post, and The Economist. Although, many current events have international components, I encourage you to choose an event that takes place in the realm of domestic politics, since it will be easier to apply materials from the course.

Description - 1 to 2 pages (September 10)

Consult at least three different sources on the current event. Look for sources that give a macro-level accounting (NYT, WaPo, WSJ) as well as regional and local sources. Include the chronology of the event, the major actors, and any other relevant information.

Area Context - 1 to 2 pages (October 10)

Consult at least three different sources on the context of the event. If the event takes place at the country-level, you can think of this as a limited country report. However, this might look different if it focuses on several states or a region within a state. Some factors ones to include might be, regime type, colonial history/historical legacy, ethnic/religious fractionalization, inequality, history of conflict, or wealth. Only include contextual factors relevant to the event.

Developing Area Politics - 1 to 2 pages(October 31)

Consult at least three different sources from the syllabus that are relevant to the current event. Describe the argument of the author(s). What does their research have to say about the state of the current event? According to the authors, what might be some additional relevant factors or actors to research?

Academic Literature Review - 1 to 2 pages (November 19)

Consult at least three sources not listed in the syllabus. These should be academic peer-reviewed journals. You can use traditional search engines like Google Scholar, JSTOR, or the Web of Science (all available through the FSU online library or publicly) to find these. It might also be helpful to consult the works cited page of the articles you used in the previous section. Describe the arguments of these works. What does their research have to say about the state of the current event? According to the authors, what might be some additional relevant factors or actors to research?

Recommendations and Conclusions - 1 to 2 pages (December 3)

Based on your reading of the current event, what are the likely outcomes, both short-term and long-term? If your current event warrants a solution, what policy recommendations would you have for the domestic actors or the international community? What other parts of the world seem likely to experience an event like the one you have described? You may consult additional sources for this section.

Bibliography

Use the American Political Science Association style guide for creating your bibliography. This should include all sources for your current events, additional research about the context of the developing area, works you are referencing from class, and the additional research you bring in the literature review.

Formatting

The Current Event Analysis must be five to ten pages, double-spaced, one inch margins, 12 point, and Times New Roman font.

Submission

The Current Event Analysis must be submitted to Canvas by noon on August 2nd.

Grading

Each section will receive a score out of 10 (including the bibliography this is six sections). I will also determine a score out of 10 for the degree to which the sections complement one another. Though the assignment should be formatted with six distinct sections, reading the document should feel natural with transitions and each section referencing the work done in other sections. Thus, the assignment in its entirety will be scored out of 70.