**Seminar Presentation & Essay Assignment – 20%**

Task: Throughout this unit you will learn about different philosophical approaches to political theory and government. Some will be through lecture and others through video and class discussion. The purpose of this is for you to get a greater understanding of how different political theories are applied today.

Assignment #1: 10 – 15 Minute Seminar Presentation (10%)

Assignment: You will be given a series of compiled readings. Each week for the next 6 weeks (Tuesday) we will have 1 Seminar Presentations a different reading each week. One person will be responsible for leading the seminar discussion.

**What is a Seminar Presentation?**

More or less this is what you do: You read the reading and present it to the class focusing on first: What it is about, its key message, and specifically in this case the ideology it discusses. You also add photos, media AND make connections to current events in society today. You also have questions for discussion for the class and the class should have questions for you.

**Step #1:** Prepare for the Seminar.

* Read the Readings. Each person **MUST** read at ***least some*** the readings each week. Note, even if you are not delivering the seminar, you **WILL** be marked (**SEE RUBRIC**) on your contributions to the seminar (this is what happens in university) so you must be able to participate intelligently by asking and answering questions.
* Contribute something valuable, debate, discuss and engage with one another.
* **Prepare notes.** Prepare notes on the reading and on any other ideas that you have.

Tips:

1. Watch the news and try to make connections with the theory. You can make notes and bring them to the discussion. Find some YouTube videos / Ted Talks perhaps.
2. Read the readings actively with a highlighter and make notes about whatever comes to mind.

**Step #2:** Seminar Leadership. If it is your turn to lead the seminar that week, you **are** being evaluated. You **must** be an expert on the reading, deliver a presentation **(10 minutes)** provide discussion questions, lead the discussion about the reading and topic **(5 minutes),** and be able to clearly explain the argument of the author and /or what the reading is about **AND** how it applies to society today.

**Step #3:** Seminar Participation. If you are not the leader you still need to help the leader. This is also about teamwork. *WE* all know how difficult it is to talk in front of a group and if you have a discussion that no one is participating in, its even harder. *So if everyone pledges to participate, then we will have a successful discussion!* You are also marked for the quality (not quantity – though that helps as well) of your contributions.

**Step #4:** Seminar Presentation & Discussion. The leader will deliver a 10 minute presentation on the reading and topic. As a class we will discuss the reading. This is exactly what happens in university; this will help you for that time. This will provide everyone the opportunity to discuss the reading and politics today.

*Evaluation:*

**The Leader is Marked on:** Their questions (hand these in as well), any research they have done (hand in a Works Cited Page if you want), Their understanding of the reading, Their examples and application of the reading.

**The Participants are Marked on:** Their quality of their contributions (questions, statements, examples). They also can hand in notes or questions, but these are in addition to what they have said. For example, you cannot not contribute and hand in notes and expect marks.

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Level 1 (50 – 59%) | Level 2 (60 – 69%) | Level 3 (70 – 79%) | Level 4 (80 – 100%) |
| Knowledge  Do you demonstrate an understanding of Political Theory?  **(Leader)** | You demonstrate a limited ability to explain important aspects of your reading. | You demonstrate some ability to explain important aspects of your reading. | You demonstrate considerable ability to explain important aspects of your reading. | You demonstrate an excellent ability to choose and explain the most important aspects of your reading and add additional research or insight. |
| Thinking  Do you provide questions that lead the discussion about your theory?  **(Leader)**  Do you analyze the reading?  **(Leader)** | You have few questions that help drive discussion.  You demonstrate a limited ability to go beyond summary to analysis. | You have some insightful questions that help drive discussion.  You demonstrate some ability to go beyond summarizing the reading into analysis. | You have many questions that help drive discussion.  You go beyond summary and provide a critique of the theory and reading. | Your questions are insightful and demonstrate excellent analysis of your reading.  Your critique and analysis of the reading demonstrates a deep understanding of the reading/theory and how you see it in our world today. |
| Communication  Do you communicate your understanding of the reading in your presentation?  **(Leader)**  Do you discuss the reading clearly?  **(Group Participants)** | You demonstrate a limited ability to communicate your understanding of the reading.  You demonstrate a limited ability to discuss the reading in your seminar group. | You demonstrate some ability to communicate your understanding of the reading.  You demonstrate some ability to discuss the reading in your seminar group. | You are organized, speak clearly and drive discussion well.  You demonstrate a considerable ability to discuss the reading in your seminar group. | You are organized, articulate, drive discussion and are an expert on your topic.  You ask and answer intelligent questions and make relevant statements regarding the reading during group discussion. |
| Application  Do you provide examples from society of the application of your political theory/reading?  **(Leader)**  Do you discuss examples from society in the group discussion of the theory and other theories discussed?  **(Group Participants)** | You provide few examples of your political theory.  You provide few examples of the theory to contribute to group discussion. | You provide some relevant social examples of your political theory.  You provide some examples of the theory to contribute to group discussion. | You provide a considerable amount of relevant social examples of your political theory.  You provide a considerable amount of examples to contribute to group discussion. | Your examples demonstrate depth of thought and are at a high level of relevance to current events in society or around the world today.  You provide meaningful and relevant examples that help drive group conversation surrounding meaningful social issues. |

Assignment #2 Short Essay (10%)

Assignment: Using a **DIFFERENT** reading from the one that you **LEAD** your seminar from you will write a short 1 – 1.5 – Page Single Spaced Essay (500 – 750 words Max) that explains and then analyzes a different reading from our seminar discussions.

**Step #1:** Choose a Reading. Choose a different reading from our reading list. Ideally on a topic that interests you. Read it. Read it 2x.

**Step #2**: Choose an Essay Question to write your analysis paper on. From **ONE (1)** of the following:

1. How does the topic discussed in the reading apply to an aspect of Canadian politics?
2. How does the topic discussed in the reading apply to ONE World Issue today?
3. What stakeholders benefit from this political theory? Why? What does the reading say about this?
4. Compare and contrast the theory you studied for your seminar presentation, or another theory discussed.
5. Do you think this political theory is good for citizens or not? Explain.

*If you want to do a topic of your own, you must show me a question you prepare to answer first.*

**Step #3:** Following the Essay Writing Process write a 500 – 750 Word (1 – 1.5 Page) Single Spaced Paper. Review the Essay Success Criteria.

**Note**: You **MUST** show me a thesis and have it approved prior to writing your essay. Also, essay organizers are available on the website for you to use should you choose to do so. I will REVIEW the essay writing process with you.

**Note 2:** Be sure to clearly and briefly explain your theory in your introduction prior to stating your thesis. You can show me any process work you desire to get feedback.

*Evaluation*

Your essay is evaluated using the below rubric; however, you should focus specifically on explaining your theory clearly and providing analysis of it as well as examples from society.

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Level 1 (50 – 59%) | Level 2 (60 – 69%) | Level 3 (70 – 79%) | Level 4 (80 – 100% |
| Knowledge  Do you demonstrate knowledge of the political theory you choose to read about? | You demonstrate knowledge of the important aspects of your reading. | You demonstrate some knowledge of the important aspects of your reading. | You demonstrate considerable knowledge of important aspects of your reading. | You demonstrate exceptional knowledge of important aspects of your reading. |
| Thinking  Do you analyze the political theory you chose to read about? | You provide a limited critical analysis of your political theory. | You provide some critical analysis of your political theory. | You provide considerable analysis of your political theory. | You critique your political theory with a high – degree of effectiveness. |
| Communication  Do you clearly communicate your understanding and application of your political theory? | Your essay meets few of the Essay Success Criteria. | Your essay meets some of the Essay Success Criteria. | Your essay meets all of the Essay Success Criteria. | Your essay exceeds the Essay Success Criteria in its communication and creativity in terms of writing. |
| Application  Do you provide real world examples of the theory you chose to read about? | You provide few real-world examples of your political theory. | You provide some applicable real – world examples of your political theory. | You provide considerable applicable real – world examples of your political theory. | You provide a variety of applicable real – world examples that demonstrate deep insight into how your political theory applies to our world today. |