

College/University: Hunter College

Department: Political Science

Faculty Member: Jennifer Dwyer

Course: 200-Level Essays

Criterion	4	3	2	1
Course Content	Shows mastery of course material, including readings, lectures and historical evidence. Demonstrates an accurate understanding of the arguments, theories and methods covered in the course, and applies course-specific terms and concepts appropriately and precisely.	Demonstrates a good command of most of the course material. Makes few if any errors in application of terms, concepts, or theories. Uses some historical evidence to support claims. Applies appropriate evidence to support claims.	Shows a general understanding of course material. Makes some errors in description or application of course content. Use of terms, concepts, and evidence is not appropriate or fully accurate.	Demonstrates only a vague and superficial understanding of course material. Essay not meaningfully informed by terms, concepts, theories and evidence covered this semester.

Criterion	4	3	2	1
Argument and Analysis	<p>Clearly states intellectual problem, main claims, and logic of the argument. Considers alternative explanations, evaluates arguments, explores related conceptual points, and questions assumptions or implications. Makes a clear and consistent argument throughout. Offers appropriate evidence to support argument. Demonstrates critical thinking.</p>	<p>States a clear thesis but does not fully explain logic of argument up-front, describes different viewpoints or types of evidence without fully assessing their value or relative merit. Makes a consistent argument throughout, with few digressions. Offers relevant evidence. Shows some effort to think critically.</p>	<p>Offers one or more claims without clearly presenting them as the thesis, or does not tie them together in logical way. Evidence is missing or not appropriate. Describes alternative arguments, leaving the reader to compare or evaluate. Conclusion does not follow fully from argument. Describes more than explains or evaluates.</p>	<p>Claims are unclear or non-existent. Difficult to find or follow logic of argument. Largely ignores alternative arguments or evidence. Does not exhibit critical reading or thinking about arguments or evidence.</p>

Criterion	4	3	2	1
Organization and Writing;	<p>Presents a focused response to the question asked, including the thesis, logic of argument, roadmap, body and conclusion. Follows a clear structure, includes good single-topic paragraphs, appropriate transitions between paragraphs, and a thoughtful conclusion. Communicates clearly, using varied vocabulary and sentence structure, follows appropriate language conventions (spelling, punctuation, etc.). Includes appropriate citations. Uses political science terms accurately.</p>	<p>Offers most of the components of a good paper. Makes smooth transitions and uses sound paragraph construction. Uses appropriate sources and provides proper citation. Uses political science terminology. Includes some lapses in organization and the use of language conventions.</p>	<p>Organization and logic of argument not always clear. Paragraphs drift from main subject. Sources may be limited or of questionable value. Terms are used inconsistently or inaccurately. Citations and sources are of low or inconsistent quality. Meaning of sentences not always clear due to lapses in use of language conventions.</p>	<p>Organization of the paper does not guide the reader. Sentences are often confusing or unintelligible. Little or no reference to specialized terms, sources, or evidence. Citations are not in order. Quotations or sources missing or inappropriate.</p>