AP Comparative

Ms Seim

Fall 2019

Final Research Paper Guidelines

Your final assessment in AP Comparative Government will be an original research paper. Specific requirements for the paper are below. (All due dates are final)

1. **Development of an original research question & preliminary bibliography (20 points)**

Your paper must compare as specific aspect of at LEAST two different countries that we have studied this semester. Before finalizing your research question, you need to get an idea of the kinds of resources that are available on your topic. Thus, 5 preliminary resources (potential research articles) need to be submitted with your research question. Remember, a good research question is one that does not have an easy answer. You will need to research and develop your answer based on weighing the evidence. If you have questions, Ms Seim and Ms Arkans are available to help you develop your research question. This will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If you fail, you will be asked to revise and resubmit your work.

Due Date: **Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019**

1. **Development of a thorough bibliography (20 points)**

Independent research is of primary importance in this project. You are expected to have a MINIMUM of 10 resources per country. None of the resources may be from before 2012. These resources must be cited in MLA citation style. Don’t forget, Noodletools will help your format your citations as well as help with your notes. This will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If you fail, you will be asked to revise and resubmit your work.

Due Date**: Friday, Dec 20, 2020**

1. **Completion of a paper outline (20 points)**

In order to facilitate a well-organized and well-reasoned paper, you need to invest time and effort planning. After researching your topic, you should have found a way to answer your research question. This answer needs to be developed into a concrete and compelling thesis statement. Along with your thesis statement, you must submit an outline with your main arguments and supporting evidence. This will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If you fail, you will be asked to revise and resubmit your work.

Due Date: **Friday, Jan 10, 2020**

1. **Research appointment/meeting with Ms Arkans (30 points)**

Ms Arkans will be expecting you to make an appointment with her when you return from winter break. The purpose of this appointment is to help guide you to specific resources or help you development specific parts of the paper that you may struggle with or have questions on. This will be graded on a completed/incomplete basis.

Due Date: Before **Friday, Jan 10, 2020 (5 bonus points if you meet with her before Dec 20, 2019)**

1. **Final paper (100 points)**

Your final paper should be a MINIMUM of 10 typed, double-spaced pages. You must develop a concrete thesis and support that thesis by providing multiple arguments with rich concrete examples comparing your countries. You must also address any potential criticisms or weaknesses of your thesis. Your paper must be all original work using properly cited sources. If you are found to have plagiarized any portion of your paper, it will be awarded zero points. (It is recommended that you check your paper with turnitin.com before submitting it.)

Due Date: **Friday**, **Jan 24, 2020**