

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Self-assessment Essay

**Please submit by e-mail and in hard copy by the deadline noted in the online course schedule. To be considered as having been submitted on time, the paper must:**

- (1) be emailed as a PDF or MS Word or RTF attached document (i.e., not a link to a cloud-based server),
- (2) sent to: [msetzler@highpoint.edu](mailto:msetzler@highpoint.edu),
- (3) with an e-mail subject line of: **PSC1010 paper 2**,
- (4) and submitted in stapled, hard copy at the start of the next class period.

Late work will be accepted for this assignment. The penalty for late work is 10% each day; however, if you let your instructor know in advance of the due date that your essay will be coming in late, why it is late, and accurately explain when it will be submitted, the deduction will be limited to 5% each day for the first ten days.

### Instructions

Please respond to the prompt listed below with an essay that is **1000-1500 words in length (aim for 3-4 pages)**. Your first page should include your name, paper title, and the paper's word count.

Your work will be graded on its content, analysis, organization, writing, and grammar. **Because of the unique nature of this assignment, you do *not* need to use citations or include a bibliography.** The essay's content and analysis grades will reflect your ability to make and support a clear, logical, well-organized argument that applies concrete evidence and examples, including information about the course's expectations derived from the syllabus, the feedback you have received on assignments, and the various on-line handouts you have been asked to review that explain grading for different types of student work.

Prior to starting to write, you *must* review several resources. The first is the online handout for how and when you may use AI in this course to strengthen your writing:

<https://marksetzler.org/generalissues/AI.htm>

Before you start, you must also consult at least a few of the resources I have linked here: [marksetzler.org/generalissues/NextProfessionalStep.htm](https://marksetzler.org/generalissues/NextProfessionalStep.htm). This webpage is intended to help you think about your long-term objectives and the skills you want to develop as you pursue a college degree and, perhaps, a major or minor in political science. Your essay should reflect the fact that you have reviewed some of these resources (pick the ones most appropriate for your situation and professional plans).

Outside of the resources noted above, please do *not* use any additional sources unless you have cleared doing so with me (i.e., You may not use the internet, unassigned authors, or any other student's work to help you write this paper). You must adhere to the syllabus sections on academic integrity and its policies related to using AI resources. Without exception, instances of plagiarism (cases where a student attempts to gain academic credit by submitting an essay in which a significant portion of the writing has been copied, paraphrased, AI-generated, or patch-written from any other author, the internet, or another student) will result in your assignment not receiving academic credit and deductions in your professionalism grade. Honor Code violations must be reported according to university policy.

### Writing Topic

Please develop an essay (as opposed to a series of short-answer responses) that advances a systematic argument covering the following points (not necessarily in the order listed):

- What are your main learning outcome goals for this class, and how well do these goals fit with the course's formal expectations for what skills and content you should be learning as well your longer-term professional goals and career ambitions?
- To what extent are you meeting the participation, writing, and content learning goals for this class so far? Be specific.

- How well have you been preparing for class, exams, and writing assignments?
- What specific areas have the instructor's feedback, course rubrics, and your own assessment of your performance identified as areas of particular strength and weakness? How have you applied feedback from your first paper to improve this assignment?
- What concrete steps could you take to get more out of this class and to enhance skills that are relevant to doing better work in the class and advancing your long-term professional ambitions?