

Term Paper “Prompts” and Requirements

You may decide to focus on one or more of the key areas provided by the textbook (particularly the “ten conditions for democracy”). You may also choose a topic not examined by the text, but of particular interest to yourself, over a wide area of subjects. (For example: A student could examine something as mundane as the politics of health care in a nation and compare that to other nations; or something controversial and far-reaching such as ethnic/tribal politics and its relationship to national identity, democratization, globalization, etc; or, perhaps, the effects of religion and/or ideology on a nation’s government. You could even analyze a nation in terms of a specific ideological approach, such as Marxism or Classical Liberalism.)

You may also use your paper to test a hypothesis regarding the politics of a nation, or two or more nations.

Among the areas and topics that could be included in an examination of politics within a nation: key historical junctures; the historical and residual role of colonialism; degree of regime stability and legitimacy (and ideological bases thereof); levels of contestation and participation; structure of power; political culture; political institutions; the interests and actions of political elites; mass movements; class structure; key groups within a society, their self-identification (“achievement vs. “ascription”) and their efficacy of power and influence as “interest groups”; civil society and autonomous political actors; economic conditions and the existence or limits of social mobility; influence of factors and/or political actors outside a nation’s borders; and the relative importance of a nation in terms of influencing developments and events in the rest of the world.

If at all relevant, your paper should **include an update on ongoing events** within and relating to your topic and/or nation of focus.

Your paper must include a **detailed analysis of the politics, history and all related factors of at least one nation, as well as some basis for comparison to another nation or group of nations.** Key issue for comparison: What makes this interesting and important, as well as a valid and necessary comparison? The paper should include an introduction explaining the bases and justification for a comparative study.

Comparative criteria **could** include (but is certainly **not limited to/by**): geographic proximity by region; current similarities in regime type; similar politico-ideological history and the existence and influence of current ideology or ideologies; a similar socio-political or religious culture and/or political economy; similar demographics; a similar level of economic success (e.g., GNP per capita) or modernization, and/or economic resources; similar histories up to a point of significant divergence.

Finally, how does your comparison stack up in terms of the key themes of our textbook: Democratization and globalization?

Students must attain the instructor's approval regarding choice of specific topic and comparative bases and criteria.

After **an introduction** in which you would succinctly introduce and summarize your topic, or state your hypothesis, your paper would proceed with **detailed empirical information** about the nation(s) you are focusing on. You would then perhaps focus upon you're **an examination of your specific and/or hypothesis and its application** to the nation you are studying; and subsequently a **general comparison** to another nation or nations (see above).

A **conclusion** consisting of some sort of **prediction(s) and/or prescription(s)** based on the preceding research and explication should be included.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12-pt. Times; at least six pages in length; and must include proper citation with a bibliography (DO NOT EVER CITE WIKEPEDIA AS A SOURCE). The use of headings and sub-headings will likely prove useful.

All students are greatly encouraged to **utilize the resources of the CHC Writing Center**. The **instructor is also quite willing to examine and critique "rough drafts"** (**PLEASE pay attention to grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, eliminating typos, etc. on ALL papers for the instructor's perusal**).

ALL PAPERS HANDED IN AFTER THE FINAL DAY OF CLASS WILL LOSE POINTS FOR LATENESS. (It is recommended that papers be handed in before the last day, i.e., before the Final Exam.)