Final Paper Assignment

This assignment is intended to sharpen your writing and critical thinking skills as well as to demonstrate your mastery of course content. Use what you have learned in class to support your argument. In developing your essay, you may consult the course instructors during office hours. You may choose one of the two topics outlined below.

The paper is not to exceed five double-spaced pages with reasonable margins (no smaller than 3/4 inch) and font size (no smaller than 11 point). Please include page numbers. The paper itself should be in Word or PDF format and is due no later than 10:30am on Thursday, March 17, to your TA’s Catalyst Dropbox. Be sure to include your name and your TA’s name and a meaningful title on the cover page. Unexcused late papers will be marked down 0.1 points per day.

Be sure to acknowledge the sources of all ideas and information. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade of 0.0 on the assignment.

For additional guidance on how to write a paper, see the course website for a link to Stephen Van Evera’s Appendix on “How to Write a Paper,” from his Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science.

Topic 1
Can classic modernization theory account for the demonstrations in China in 1989 and in Egypt in 2011? Can it account for one (if so, specify which one), both, or neither?

Fully support your answer in a well-crafted essay by analyzing for both cases

• the goals of the demonstrators,
• the nature and scope of participation, and
• the impacts of the demonstrations.

Make reference to

• the relevant claims of the theory as well as to
• relevant data.

Relevant data are textual and numerical. You should consult the Human Development Index (1990 data is acceptable for China in 1989 and 2010 data is acceptable for Egypt in 2011). You should also consult the following sources as well as locate at least two sources yourself. At least one of your sources should be from a scholarly, peer-reviewed publication.

Base your answer on the preponderance of evidence, but, no matter how you answer the questions posed above, be sure to acknowledge and respond to disconfirming evidence.

UN Human Development Indicators
http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/default.html#M

China


Egypt
Blake Hounshell, “Think Again—Egypt: From the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to the Arab Autocracy Domino Theory, Five Myths about Egypt’s Revolution,” Foreign Policy February 14, 2011 Full text online: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/02/14/think_again_egypt?page=0.4

Topic 2
How have the design of political institutions and the electoral system contributed to political instability and stalemate in the case of Iraq? Recently, following elections in March of 2010, the Iraqi political system produced gridlock that kept the country without a new government for nine months.

Fully Support your answer in a well-crafted essay by analyzing
• characteristics of Iraqi society and economy
• the type of political institutions (legislative-executive) Iraq has currently
• the type of electoral system Iraq currently employs
• how the political and electoral systems affect party politics

Make clear connections between
• current characteristics of Iraqi society,
• current political institutions and electoral system, and
• electoral and political outcomes

Consult the following sources and as well as locate two additional sources yourself. All of the following sources are available full text online through the UW Library Catalogue. At least one of your sources should be from a scholarly, peer-reviewed publication.


Guide to Citing Sources for the Short Paper
It is important to acknowledge your intellectual debts. In order to avoid plagiarism, you must acknowledge the source of any idea that is not common knowledge and that is not your own—even if you do not quote the source directly. Direct quotations must be identified using quotation marks. You may employ any standard citation format as long as you use it consistently and provide complete bibliographic information on each source somewhere in the paper. For example, you may choose either to provide complete citations in footnotes or to cite sources in the text by author and page number in parentheses, giving complete citations in a bibliography. For your reference, listed below are some examples of how to cite different types of sources.

For a website:
For a book by a single author:

For an edited volume:

For a journal article:

For a magazine or newspaper article: