

POS 4413 - American Presidency Analytical Essays Two

Directions

The essays are open note and open book, but you cannot collaborate with anyone in completing the responses. All essays must be typed in a word-processing computer program and follow specific formatting rules (12-pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced, and one inch margins on all sides). Microsoft Word .doc files are preferred. Students will be expected to avoid frequent spelling and grammatical errors when writing their essays. Each essay must have a clear beginning, middle, and end. The student should cite all resources used when constructing their responses using guidelines presented in the American Political Science Association Style Manual. Every submission must be checked for academic integrity by submitting the document to TurnItIn's plagiarism monitor via Canvas.

You must go to the "Assignments" link on Canvas, click on "Analytical Essays Two," and submit in a single document file your responses to the two separate prompts. The assignment is due Thursday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. You should only be using resources assigned or discussed in class, not outside sources. That means only lecture slides and readings assigned in the course should be used in constructing responses. These essays are not intended to be full research papers. The goal is to display your mastery of the course materials.

Each prompt is worth seven and a half points. You write a separate essay response for each prompt. The best responses will accurately integrate both lecture and reading materials together.

Prompt One

President Obama recently announced a transition policy, whereby insurers could renew health plans for an additional policy year, even if those health plans did not meet provisions of the Affordable Care Act. In doing so, the president asserted the authority to delay enforcement of specific provisions of a federal law. Some perceive this as an example of the exertion of unilateral power. Explain what is meant by unilateral power. Provide examples from course materials (readings and lecture) of presidential activities that are considered instances of a unilateral executive branch. What are the potential benefits and costs for a presidential administration that exerts unilateral power? In this discussion, describe how the judicial and legislative branches have responded to the usage of unilateral power from the executive branch.

Prompt Two

There is a common perception that evaluations of presidential performance from the public are tied to the performance of the macro-economy. Contrast the major theories presented in class regarding the role of presidential administrations in shaping the macro-economy. In what ways can the president actually shape economic policy in the country? How has the state of the macro-economy influenced the relationship between the executive branch and the federal bureaucracy over time? What are the obstacles the president faces in influencing economic policy? Engage with course materials (readings and lecture) when constructing your response.