

POS 3931 - Race & Politics 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 Wednesday, December 11th at 10 p.m. You should only be using resources assigned or discussed in class, not outside sources. 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. Evaluate the course materials in a clear and analytical way.

Prompt One

Compare and contrast the electoral participation rates of those who self-identify as Anglo, African American, Latino, or Asian American. Do members of the three major minority groups vote at levels equivalent to Anglos? Scholars believe that feelings of alienation, political efficacy, trust in government, and political sophistication are major determinants of whether people participate in the political process. Guided by course materials (readings and lecture), define these four factors, as well as assess whether each of these four factors help to explain, or fail to clarify, the political participation levels of Anglos, African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans.

Prompt Two

Much has been written about the possibility of racial and ethnic minority groups forming a political coalition that can serve as a highly influential voting bloc. Based on your assessment of the course materials (readings and lecture), is there more potential for intergroup conflict or intergroup cooperation within the United States? Explain whether members of minority groups share similar ideological positions on major domestic political issues in the country, an aspect that would be conducive to intergroup cooperation. Lastly, describe whether there appears to be agreement or disagreement across minority groups about the appropriate role of government in addressing social problems. Elaborate on whether this helps or hinders the prospects for meaningful intergroup cooperation.