

# POS 3931 - Race & Politics Analytical Essays

## Directions

The analytical essays are open-note and open-book, but you can **ONLY REFER TO CLASS MATERIALS**. That means you can only refer to course readings, course lecture slides, and films assigned in the course. You cannot refer to any other source. You cannot collaborate with anyone at all when constructing your responses on the analytical essays. There is no set page limit on this assignment.

You submit one file electronically over Canvas, with two separate essays written in the one file. You respond to the first prompt, and then give the works cited list for course materials referred to in your response to this prompt. You then respond to the second prompt, and then give the works cited list for course materials referred to in your response to this prompt. Each response should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Please follow the formatting guidelines discussed on page four of the syllabus. Each prompt is worth ten points each.

## Prompt One

What evidence is presented in the “Race - The Power of an Illusion” series of films that suggests racial or ethnic prejudice and discrimination are learned by a process of socialization living within a specific culture? In the lecture slides, the distinction between prejudice and discrimination is made. What makes discrimination different from prejudice? Discuss the differences detailed in the lecture slides about disparities in opinion between individual Blacks and Latinos regarding personal experiences with discrimination, and also perceptions that the entire group one identifies with experiences discrimination. What are the potential consequences of these disparities in opinion on the extent of group cohesion exhibited by Blacks and Latinos? Assess the potential implications of disparities in group cohesion on the voter turnout levels that have been exhibited by Blacks and Latinos.

## Prompt Two

In the *CQ Researcher*, there is a discussion about the changing racial and ethnic composition of the country. Summarize in your own words what findings the *CQ Researcher* chapter presents on this topic. Explain how the changing demographics discussed in the *CQ Researcher* chapter play a role in the points expressed by Samuel P. Huntington in his two essays. Given the survey findings presented in the lecture slides about group orientations to the American political system, is there any survey evidence offered that contradicts the positions offered by Huntington? Provide justification for your answer.

### Good luck everybody!

Just so everyone is clear, citing lecture is absolutely necessary in the analytical essays, just like you would cite one of the course readings. Since you will likely be citing multiple lectures, you will use a lowercase letter after the year to distinguish between the different lectures. The lecture that gets cited first receives the (a) letter assignment, the second lecture that gets cited receives the (b) letter assignment, the third lecture that gets cited receives the (c) letter assignment, etc. You should do a separate lettering order for each essay.

Within the text of an essay you can do the following:

The 14th Amendment established the citizenship status of Blacks in America, but Native Americans were not granted any significant rights and privileges of citizenship under the 14th Amendment (Olds 2014a). The differences in experiences between Blacks and Native Americans could have made it difficult to form political alliances between these two groups across time. As Olds (2014b) writes, it is very hard to develop political

alliances when members of different groups do not have any feelings of commonality or shared experiences with members of the other group.

Then, in the works cited list, you would distinguish the works by lecture title and an appropriate date:

Olds, Christopher. 2014a. L4: Historical Aspects of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S. Part Two. September 21. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Olds, Christopher. 2014b. L11: Group Cooperation and Competition. November 9. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Citing films in APSA style is also possible. It is a good idea to look up the film's information on the USF Library website when constructing the citation entry. For example, below is an APSA style works cited citation for the film *White Like Me: Race, Racism & White Privilege in America*.

Wise, Tim. 2013. *White Like Me: Race, Racism & White Privilege in America*. Northampton, MA.: Media Education Foundation.

When referring to the film within the body of your essay, you can cite it as Wise (2013) or (Wise 2013), depending on how you structure your sentence.

Hopefully this clarifies things when constructing your references for the prompts!