POS 2112 - State and Local Government and Politics Analytical Essays

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 the link displaying "Item #4: Analytical Essays (15 points)," and submit in a single document file your responses to the two separate prompts. The assignment is due Friday, April 24th at 11:59 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.

Just so everyone is clear, citing lecture is 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, and so on. You should do a separate lettering order for each essay prompt.

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

Olds (2015a) discusses how federalism is a political framework where national and regional governments share political authority. The national supremacy clause in Article VI of the Constitution says the laws of federal government can override rules in areas that are typically regulated by state government (Olds 2015b).

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

Olds, Christopher. 2015a. L1: Federalism - Part One. January 12. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Olds, Christopher. 2015b. L2: Federalism - Part Two. January 19. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Each prompt is worth 7.5 points. You write a separate essay response for each prompt. The best responses will accurately integrate both lecture and reading materials together.

Prompt One (7.5 Points)

Describe the differences in the electoral process between state government positions and national government positions in the United States. How are the rules regarding terms (length) of service in the judicial, legislative, and executive branches at the state level distinct from the terms of service in these same branches of government at the national level? Based on your review of the course materials, assess why there are these distinctions in the electoral process and terms of service between the state and national levels of government.

Prompt Two (7.5 Points)

A consistent theme in the course is that political culture and traditions are key in explaining observed variation across state and local government regarding the framework/structure of government in place, and also the approaches to policy-making that are employed. In other words, political culture and traditions play a major role in the policy-making environment, as well as the type of policies that are passed. Elaborate on the ways in which political culture and traditions shape both the policy-making environment and the type of policies that are passed in state and local government.