

## Research Project

### Topic, Model, Causality, Theory, Structure

(This document is a re-working by Carol Franck of material in the Fall 2015 syllabus)

- You must pick a political topic that relates to the PI component of this class.
- The topic should address the appropriate role of the state within the context of the domestic or international market in the current or historic
- In your argument, you are expected to discuss the general topic and relevant theory from the reading.
- In addition, you must find further scholarly work that looks at the topic but presents a different approach/thesis/analysis etc.
- You need at **least** 6 sources from peer-reviewed journals or books for the final product.
- You should also include a case study to illustrate your point (here you may rely more heavily on newspaper articles etc.).

#### **Part 1: Investigating Topics**

- Identify two potential topics which fit the parameters of the assignment
- Write one paragraph for each in which you introduce the overall topic and introduce possible research questions that interest you.

#### **Part 2: Learning how to do Research**

- Complete both *library tutorials* (Research in Databases AND Searching the Free Web at <http://potsdam.libguides.com/tutorialsportal>)
- Take both associated quizzes in the “Information Literacy Quizzes” course in Moodle.
- This is mandatory, even if you have already taken these quizzes in the context of other classes.

#### **Part 3: Model and Causality**

Your **Model and Causality** must include:

- A statement of your potential argument
- A model
- A detailed section explaining underlying causalities between your dependent and independent variables
- At least a paragraph on an implicated moral question which you wish to discuss
- At least four academic sources, listed in APA style

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#### **Part 4: Theory and Structure**

- You must revise and significantly expand your argument proposal from part 3
- Include revised versions of all aspects that were in the proposal
- Include two new parts, **Theory and Structure**.
- Theory: discuss your topic in the context of two theories from the class.
- Structure: Organize the different aspects of your argument in the best possible way and provide some evidence for your argument and integrate it into your structure
- Include an APA reference list of at least 6 sources

#### **Part 5: Revision**

Revision of your work after peer-review

#### **Part 6: Presentation**

Panel presentation