

Political Science 334

Seeking Truth in an Age of Misinformation, Cynicism, and Political Polarization

Autumn 2019

Professor Mark Alan Smith

Grading rubric for the paper

15 points: Engagement with materials from the quarter

Does the paper look like it was written by someone in this course? Do you engage systematically with materials from the quarter, which could include building upon or challenging them?

15 points: Originality

Do you have original claims of your own, different from those that emerge straightforwardly from the course materials? Does your paper take some intellectual risks? Your originality could include synthesizing or extending certain ideas, or resolving the tensions between them.

50 points: Arguments and evidence

Do you develop and support your claims with arguments, evidence, and examples? Does your paper succeed on its own terms in making the best case possible for the claims you are offering? Are your claims persuasive?

10 points: Coherence

Do you lead the reader systematically from point to point? Is your paper organized clearly? Do you tie your paper together at the level of sentences, paragraphs, and the paper as a whole? Do you avoid tangents and filler?

10 points: Style

Is your paper free of errors in syntax, grammar, spelling, and word choice? Is your paper elegantly written? Have you followed the prompt's formatting and submission instructions?