

17.405 – 17.406 Fall 2003

Paper 1

Purpose

The purpose of the paper is for you to reflect on a topic, do the relevant readings in the syllabus (extra if you wish), identify your key points and place them in some order in your presentation. This is to encourage you to consider one topic (as broadly defined below) and draw on various sources in order to develop a perspective.

Topics

Please write an essay (7-10 pages) on one of the following topics:

- Early Days of Islamic Political Community
- The Role of the Military in Middle East Politics
- Religion and Politics – Comparison of 2 countries
- Political Institutions – Comparison of 2 countries
- Changing Boundaries in the Middle East – Why and How?
- Homogeneity vs. Diversity – Comparison of 2 countries
- Interactions Among Conflicts: Discussion of at least 2 types of conflict and their interactions

You are welcome to suggest a topic (not listed above) or to reframe a topic (of the above). Please make sure that the instructor approves any 'topic' not listed above.

Due Date **October 27, 2003**

Format:

1. Introduction of Topic – why is this topic relevant (or important?)
2. Background & Argument you are presenting
3. ‘Evidence’ ie from the assignments or other
4. Conclusion

References: Be sure to footnote your points as needed. Direct quotes require quotation marks. Please be sure not to overlook these two points. Please use side-titles for sections as needed.

Process

1. Be sure to identify your views vs. those of others you are citing (i.e. other authors or other sources)
2. Do not confuse “is” with “ought” and do not use “should” without clarifying the criteria that drive this view – avoid “should” as much as possible.
3. Usually it is best think out the entire paper before starting to write. This means, do an outline- this will show you where you think you are going and help identify lack of coherence (if any)
4. Direct quotes require quotation marks.
5. Please be sure not to overlook these two points. Please use side-titles for sections as needed.

Dates Due:

Paper 1 October 27

Paper 2 November 24 Topics to be suggested

Paper 3 December 8 Topics to be suggested

Sources

Reading assignments – including related as relevant your topic

Citations

Be sure to footnote your points as needed. For direct quotes please cite author’s last name, date, and page number