

## EXPECTATIONS FOR PSSP RESEARCH-ORIENTED REACTION PAPER

Document updated: March 25, 2021

Students enrolled in Poli100, Poli130, or Poli150 who do not wish to fulfill their course's Research Activity Requirement by participating in research studies can fulfill the requirement by writing a research-oriented reaction paper.

Students availing themselves of this option should write a critical response to an article published in *The Monkey Cage* (a blog about political science research hosted by the *Washington Post*). A critical response consists of:

- A concise summary of the argument made by the article's author or authors.
- A concise discussion of what evidence the authors marshal to support their argument.
- A critical discussion of the author's conclusions—whether the evidence supports them in part, in whole, or not at all.
- A discussion of implications of the argument. (E.g. what policy changes are or are not supported.)
- A discussion of what additional information (or research) would help develop public understand of whatever issues the article discusses.

Not all *Monkey Cage* articles are available for reaction. You must choose one of the following six:

- 1) Binder, Sarah. "Biden says bring back the 'talking filibuster.' Would that really let Senate Democrats pass bills?" [Link](#).
- 2) Arias, Sabrina and Christopher W. Blair. "The Biden administration is planning for climate migration. Do Americans support helping climate migrants?" [Link](#).
- 3) Weisskircher, Manès. "Four things to watch in Germany's state elections on Sunday" [Link](#).
- 4) Shapiro, Robert. "Despite the 2020 election results, you can still trust polling. Mostly." [Link](#).
- 5) Lazarus, Jeffrey. "Democrats are bringing earmarks back. Aren't earmarks bad?" [Link](#).
- 6) Dornschneider, Stephanie. "It's been 10 years since the Arab Spring. Why did people protest then — and not now?" [Link](#).

The response paper should be 1,200 to 1,300 words long. It should make reference to three external primary sources (beyond the initial *Monkey Cage* post) that were consulted to inform the response. All three primary sources should be original scholarly research (academic journal articles, research reports, conference papers, or books published by a university press). Newspaper articles, magazine articles, or blog pieces do not count as an external primary source. Response papers should include a works cited section in APA format, as in:

Kam, Cindy D. 2012. "Risk Attitudes and Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): 817–36.

Schelling, Thomas C. 1980. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

The reaction paper is graded Pass/Fail, by the PSSP Administrator.

Papers should be submitted using the online form available at [this link](#). **Make sure to include your name and PID number prominently at the top of the document you are submitting.**

The paper is due April 27 at 5pm—an absolutely firm deadline. Note that late April is invariably an incredibly busy time of the semester. For this reason, we implore you not to leave the reaction paper for the last minute.