

POL 313: Final Project Guidelines and Grading Guide

Overview

The final project for this course is the creation of a **theoretical analysis** of the beliefs of two Western political theorists. Understanding the views of key theorists within this field is fundamental to understanding political science and contemporary politics. You will choose two theorists to compare and contrast their views on the nature of mankind, capitalism, justice, liberty, revolution, and the relationship between citizen and the state.

The project is supported by three formative milestones, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules Two, Three, and Five**. **The final submission is in Module Seven.**

In this assignment, you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:

- **POL-313-01** Compare and contrast Western political theorists' methods of reasoning
- **POL-313-02** Apply political theories to issues of justice, liberty, revolution, and the relationship between the citizen and the state
- **POL-313-03** Evaluate philosophical assumptions concerning the nature of mankind and its implications for political theory
- **POL-313-04** Examine the philosophical debate over the nature of capitalism

Prompt

Your paper should answer the following prompt: How do two key Western political theorists articulate and rationalize their views on the nature of mankind, capitalism, justice, liberty, revolution, and the relationship between citizen and the state?

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

- I. **Introduction:** Select a political theorist from those you have studied in the course. What are the central values or beliefs of this theorist? Substantiate claims through the use of peer-reviewed, scholarly research. Use representative, peer-reviewed articles that embody the essence of the chosen theorist's ideals and beliefs.
 - a) **Theorist I**
 - b) **Theorist II**
- II. **Theorist I:** What are the central concepts or beliefs of your chosen theorist in regard to the following?
 - a) **Nature of Mankind:** Evaluate the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the nature of mankind.
 - i. Does the theorist believe that mankind is sinful or inherently good?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that government is necessary to control the impulses of mankind?
 - b) **Capitalism:** Assess the theorist's basic assumptions regarding capitalism.
 - i. What does the theorist say about capitalism? Does he believe that capitalism suppresses or exploits individuals?

- ii. Does the theorist believe that capitalism is a force for imprisonment or a force for liberation?
- c) **Justice:** Apply the theorist's basic assumptions to issues of justice.
 - i. According to this theorist, what is the meaning of justice?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that equality is necessary for justice?
- d) **Liberty:** Apply the theorist's basic assumptions to issues of liberty.
 - i. Does the theorist believe that personal property is necessary for liberty?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that government is a force to protect or to suppress liberty? Explain.
- e) **Revolution:** Apply the theorist's basic assumptions to issues of revolution.
 - i. According to the theorist, under what conditions is political revolution justified? Give examples.
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that revolution is inevitable? Explain.
- f) **Relationship between citizen and state:** What obligations does the theorist believe that the citizen has to the state? In contrast, what are his beliefs regarding the obligations the state has to citizens?

III. **Theorist II:** What are the central concepts or beliefs of your chosen theorist in regard to the following?

- a) **Nature of Mankind:** Evaluate the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the nature of mankind.
 - i. Does the theorist believe that mankind is sinful or inherently good?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that government is necessary to control the impulses of mankind?
- b) **Capitalism:** Assess the theorist's basic assumptions regarding capitalism.
 - i. What does the theorist say about capitalism? Does he believe that capitalism suppresses or exploits individuals?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that capitalism is a force for imprisonment or a force for liberation?
- c) **Justice:** Apply the theorist's basic assumptions to issues of justice.
 - i. According to this theorist, what is the meaning of justice?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that equality is necessary for justice?
- d) **Liberty:** Apply the theorist's basic assumptions to issues of liberty.
 - i. Does the theorist believe that personal property is necessary for liberty?
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that government is a force to protect or to suppress liberty? Explain.
- e) **Revolution:** Apply the theorist's basic assumptions to issues of revolution.
 - i. According to the theorist, under what conditions is political revolution justified? Give examples.
 - ii. Does the theorist believe that revolution is inevitable? Explain.
- f) **Relationship between citizen and state:** What obligations does the theorist believe that the citizen has to the state? In contrast, what are his beliefs regarding the obligations the state has to citizens?

IV. **Conclusion:** Which theorist do you find more persuasive? In other words, which of the two theorists do you find to be more logical, relevant, and/or accurate? Provide a rationale for your conclusion.

Milestones

Milestone One: Proposal

In **task 2-2**, you will submit an **initial one-page proposal** on the two theorists to be studied for the final project. Define the central values of each theorist. **This milestone is graded pass/fail.**

Milestone Two: Annotated Bibliography

In **task 3-2**, you will submit an **annotated bibliography** relevant to the final project paper. The resources in the bibliography should be representative, peer-reviewed articles that embody the essence of the chosen theorist's ideals and beliefs. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: Outline

In **task 5-2**, you will submit an **outline of your final project paper**, indicating how you will contrast the two theorists' views on the nature of mankind, capitalism, justice, liberty, revolution, and the relationship between citizen and the state. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Three Rubric.**

Final Submission: Theoretical Analysis

In **task 7-2**, you will submit your **final theoretical analysis of two theorists**, comparing their views on the nature of mankind, capitalism, justice, liberty, revolution, and the relationship between a citizen and the state. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This milestone will be graded using the Final Product Rubric (below).**

Deliverable Milestones

Milestone	Deliverables	Module Due	Grading
1	Proposal	Two	Graded separately; pass/fail
2	Annotated Bibliography	Three	Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric
3	Outline	Five	Graded separately; Milestone Three Rubric
	Final Submission: Theoretical Analysis	Seven	Graded separately; Final Product Rubric

Final Product Rubric

Requirements of Submission: Students should submit a well-developed analysis of two Western political theorists that comprehensibly encompasses their central values and beliefs. The paper should be 10–12 pages, double spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, and 1-inch margins. The paper should follow Turabian format and include a minimum of four peer-reviewed, scholarly research references.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Introduction: Theorist I	Meets “Proficient” criteria, and assessment is comprehensive and well developed	Includes the central values or beliefs of the selected political theorist and substantiates claims through scholarly research that embodies the essence of the chosen theorist’s ideals and beliefs	Includes the central values or beliefs of the selected political theorist, but does not substantiate claims through the use of scholarly research	Does not include the central values or beliefs of the selected political theorist	7
Introduction: Theorist II	Meets “Proficient” criteria, and assessment is comprehensive and well developed	Includes the central values or beliefs of the selected political theorist and substantiates claims through scholarly research that embodies the essence of the chosen theorist’s ideals and beliefs	Includes the central values or beliefs of the selected political theorist, but does not substantiate claims through the use of scholarly research	Does not include the central values or beliefs of the selected political theorist	7
Theorist I: Nature of Mankind	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Evaluates the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the nature of mankind, including beliefs on whether mankind is sinful or inherently good and whether government is necessary to control the impulses of mankind	Includes an evaluation of the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the nature of mankind, but does not discuss beliefs on whether mankind is sinful or inherently good or does not discuss whether government is necessary to control the impulses of mankind	Does not include an evaluation of the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding mankind	9
Theorist I: Capitalism	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Assesses the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding capitalism, including whether capitalism suppresses or exploits individuals and whether it is a force for imprisonment or liberation	Assesses the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the nature of capitalism, but does not assess beliefs on whether capitalism suppresses or exploits individuals or does not assess the theorist’s beliefs on whether capitalism is a force for imprisonment or liberation	Does not include an evaluation of the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding capitalism	9

Theorist I: Justice	Meets "Proficient" criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Applies the theorist's basic assumptions regarding justice, including the meaning of justice and whether the theorist believes that equality is necessary for justice	Applies the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the nature of justice, but does not discuss the meaning of justice or does not discuss whether the theorist believes that equality is necessary for justice	Does not apply the theorist's basic assumptions regarding justice	4
Theorist I: Liberty	Meets "Proficient" criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Applies the theorist's basic assumptions regarding liberty, including whether personal property is necessary for liberty and whether government is a force to protect or to suppress liberty	Applies the theorist's basic assumptions regarding liberty, but does not discuss whether the theorist believes that personal property is necessary for liberty or does not discuss whether government is a force to protect or to suppress liberty	Does not apply the theorist's basic assumptions regarding liberty	4
Theorist I: Revolution	Meets "Proficient" criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Applies the theorist's basic assumptions regarding revolution, including the conditions under which revolution is justified as well as whether revolution is inevitable	Applies the theorist's basic assumptions regarding revolution, but does not discuss under what conditions the theorist believes that revolution is justified or does not discuss whether revolution is inevitable	Does not apply the theorist's basic assumptions regarding revolution	4
Theorist I: Relationship Between Citizen and State	Meets "Proficient" criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Evaluates the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the relationship between the citizen and the state, including what obligations the citizen has to the state and what obligations the state has to citizens	Evaluates the theorist's basic assumptions concerning the relationship between the citizen and the state, but does not discuss what obligations the citizen has to the state or does not discuss what obligations the state has to citizens	Does not include an evaluation of the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the relationship between the citizen and the state	4
Theorist II: Nature of Mankind	Meets "Proficient" criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Evaluates the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the nature of mankind, including beliefs on whether mankind is sinful or inherently good and whether government is necessary to control the impulses of mankind	Includes an evaluation of the theorist's basic assumptions regarding the nature of mankind, but does not discuss beliefs on whether mankind is sinful or inherently good or does not discuss whether government is necessary to control the impulses of mankind	Does not include an evaluation of the theorist's basic assumptions regarding mankind	9

Theorist II: Capitalism	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Assesses the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding capitalism, including whether capitalism suppresses or exploits individuals and whether it is a force for imprisonment or liberation	Assesses the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the nature of capitalism, but does not assess beliefs on whether capitalism suppresses or exploits individuals or does not assess the theorist’s beliefs on whether capitalism is a force for imprisonment or liberation	Does not include an evaluation of the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding capitalism	9
Theorist II: Justice	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Applies the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding justice, including the meaning of justice and whether the theorist believes that equality is necessary for justice	Applies the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the nature of justice, but does not discuss the meaning of justice or does not discuss whether the theorist believes that equality is necessary for justice	Does not apply the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding justice	4
Theorist II: Liberty	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Applies the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding liberty, including whether personal property is necessary for liberty and whether government is a force to protect or to suppress liberty	Applies the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding liberty, but does not discuss whether the theorist believes that personal property is necessary for liberty or does not discuss whether government is a force to protect or to suppress liberty	Does not apply the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding liberty	4
Theorist II: Revolution	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Applies the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding revolution, including the conditions under which revolution is justified as well as whether revolution is inevitable	Applies the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding revolution, but does not discuss under what conditions the theorist believes that revolution is justified or does not discuss whether revolution is inevitable	Does not apply the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding revolution	4
Theorist II: Relationship Between Citizen and State	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Evaluates the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the relationship between the citizen and the state, including what obligations the citizen has to the state and what obligations the state has to citizens	Evaluates the theorist’s basic assumptions concerning the relationship between the citizen and the state, but does not discuss what obligations the citizen has to the state or does not discuss what obligations the state has to citizens	Does not include an evaluation of the theorist’s basic assumptions regarding the relationship between the citizen and the state	4

Conclusion	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples to substantiate claims	Identifies which theorist is more persuasive in terms of his logic, relevance, and/or accuracy and provides a rationale for this conclusion	Identifies which theorist is more persuasive in terms of his logic, relevance, and/or accuracy, but does not provide a rationale for this conclusion	Does not identify which theorist is more persuasive	7
Articulation of Response	Meets “Proficient” criteria and has excellent syntax and sentence construction	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	11
Earned Total					100%