

Bibliographic Essay:

Your bibliographic essay should focus on the literature for the seminar topic you have chosen and should summarize, synthesize, and critically, but sympathetically, evaluate the literature for the week. A bibliographic essay is NOT a book report or even a series of book reports stuck together. Rather, the essay should focus on the literature as a whole and addresses such questions as: What are the principal questions addressed in the literature? What are the principal approaches, theoretical and methodological, which have been used to address these questions? What are the principal conclusions reached in the literature? What are the main points of agreement and the principal areas of disagreement in the literature? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the literature?

The "literature" for your topic should include all of the required readings plus a survey of the optional readings for the topic and the relevant literature that has been published on the topic since 2008 in the three leading journals in the discipline: the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, and *The Journal of Politics*. A list of the relevant articles from those journals should be appended to your paper.

Seminar papers must not exceed 10 pages in length. They must be typed, double spaced, with 1" margins and a font no smaller than that used here (times Roman 12 point). They should be stapled in the upper left hand corner -- no plastic binders or paper clips, please.

Papers should be distributed to the class as a PDF via email by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday of the week in which the paper will be discussed.