



Day 2

Example: Assignment Goals and Learning Outcomes

Political Science 120A, Introduction to International Relations

Brief description of course characteristics

- Enrollment 278 Students
- Freshmen: 4.4%; Sophomores: 38.4%; Juniors: 35.8%; Seniors: 21.4%.
- 70% political science and related majors
- 3 hours lecture, 1 hour discussion each week
- 7 GSIs
- Assignment replaces written exam for one of the four course units

Brief description of key goals to be accomplished by the assignment

- Introduce students to different types of scholarly sources and how to access them
- Provide students with preliminary skills to do further research in the field of international relations
- Teach students to break down a piece of writing into its component parts and analyze the arguments.
- Give students the opportunity to read in depth on a topic and understand how different pieces of scholarship are engaged in conversation with one another.

Brief description of what students will be asked to produce

Students will create an annotated bibliography: a partial list of sources on a subject related to the course with brief descriptions or evaluations of the articles. The bibliography must include 10-12 sources on the topic; no more than two may be from the course syllabus. Students should identify five sources that are in intellectual conversation with one another to annotate.

Learning Outcomes:

RESEARCH QUESTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw on class discussions and course readings to identify a preliminary research topic. 2. Explore general information sources to increase familiarity with the topic and context. 3. Use information from course readings and discussions to identify seminal sources on a topic. 4. Modify the topic to achieve a manageable research question.
INFORMATION LANDSCAPE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Describe how scholarly information is produced, organized, and disseminated in the field of international relations. 6. Distinguish between the various publication formats (e.g. scholarly journal articles) that are significant in the discipline. 7. Describe relationships between free (e.g. Google Scholar) and proprietary (e.g. Worldwide Political Science Abstracts) discovery tools. 8. From the Library home page, navigate to key discovery tools for international relations and related fields. 9. Investigate the scope, content, and organization of key discovery tools in international relations. 10. Develop a research plan.
SEARCHING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Identify key concepts, proper names, and other terms to begin search. 12. Select controlled vocabulary specific to international relations and the research tool. 13. Construct a strategy using appropriate search protocols. 14. Describe strategies for identifying sources "in conversation" (e.g. citation patterns, literature reviews). 15. Assess the search results for relevance; repeat and revise the search as necessary. 16. Decode a citation or database record to identify the type of material cited (book, article, etc.) and note the information needed to determine availability.
ACCESSING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Note locations and call numbers in order to locate information resources in the library's print collections. 18. Use UC E-Links and catalog searches to locate items in the library's online collections. 19. Use library services (e.g. interlibrary borrowing, reference) to address research obstacles. 20. Access licensed research tools from off campus using proxy server.
PRODUCT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Identify the purpose of an article or the question it is trying to answer. 22. Analyze the structure and logic of supporting arguments. 23. State the findings or the argument that the article makes. 24. Restate concepts to write original annotations in the prescribed format. 25. Organize citations and annotations into prescribed annotated bibliography format. 26. Adhere consistently to the appropriate documentation style for the discipline.

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KEY: Prioritized in assignment design

Addressed through Library Research Worksheet, session, and handout.

Addressed through provision of models

~~Removed from assignment design~~