

POLICY RESEARCH PAPER

Choose an issue on the “globalization agenda” that is of significant interest to you. Research and write a paper that engages the policy debate and argues for what you think the optimal policy should be (U.S. policy, UN policy and/or other major global actors).

While the structure and outline are yours to develop as best fits your topic and your writing style, your paper should have the following principal components:

- **Central Question:** What is the question you seek to answer, the argument you intend to make, or the hypothesis you intend to test?
- **Theory and History:** What historical background as well as theories and concepts are most important for understanding the policy debate?
- **The Players:** Who are the key actors (i.e., which international institutions, which NGOs, which private sector actors, which governments and/or which parts of the U.S. government)?
- **The Policy Debate:** There are at least two sides to every policy debate; there always is an “other side”. Your paper needs to assess the principal contending arguments without any “straw men”.
- **Your Proposed Policy:** Make the case for what you think should be done.

What does it take to get an “A”?

- A well researched paper that identifies and makes Duke quality use of the major relevant literature, identifying high quality and relevant date, quantitative and/or qualitative, drawn from a mix of books, scholarly and policy journals, government documents (U.S., UN, other as the case may be), think tank and NGO studies, and other credible sources.
- Analysis that shows strong command of the literature and the relevant policy debates, and “digests” so as to also present your own value-added insights and analysis.
- Makes clear, well substantiated and viable policy proposals: no need for purist or absolutist answers, but no fence-sitting either.

- Professionally presented as a research paper, including use of tables and figures as enhances your paper, and proper use of citations (whichever of the standard formats you prefer) and bibliography.
- Well written: Write, rewrite and rewrite again

Target length: 12-15 pages.

***** First Assignment, Topic Selection:** State your topic in no more than one page.

- Be sure to define the Central Question. Depth of analysis is more important than breadth of coverage, so choose an issue that is neither too narrow nor too broad for the nature of this assignment.
- Provide an initial discussion of the policy debate. What are the main proposals and positions? Who appears at this stage of your research to be the key actors?
- Compose an initial annotated bibliography of six major sources (this part can of course go beyond the single page). By major we mean the kind of sources that can provide the building blocks for the whole project: e.g., books, scholarly and policy journal articles, government documents, think tank and NGO studies – but NOT newspaper or newsmagazine articles (you eventually will use these, but they are not what we mean by major sources).

Get started on this this week, and be sure to have a working draft of your topic statement by the week of 2/9 to use in conjunction with the library assignment from Catherine Shreve, Social Science Reference Librarian working with us for your library research sessions on 2/9 and 2/11. To accommodate this, we've extended the deadline for the Topic Statement to 2/16 or 2/18, whichever is your discussion section date.

Final Paper will be due *Friday April 23, no later than 3:00, with hard copies in Eric or Wendy's box (lower level, Sanford Institute)*. This is two days after the last class (here too a revised date from the syllabus). This paper counts for 30% of the course grade. Papers will be graded on a scale of 100. Late papers incur a 5-point per day penalty.

Keep a hard copy.