

DOCUMENTARY ASSIGNMENT  
INR2002.001, SUMMER 2017

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The following are the parameters for the Documentary Assignment for Intro to World Politics.

Please select one of the following documentaries:

**THE SECRET HISTORY OF ISIS:**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/the-secret-history-of-isis/>

**CALL ME KUCHU:**

<https://callmekuchu.com/>

**CAMP 14: Total Control Zone:**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2149190/>

**An episode of Why Poverty?:**

<http://www.pbs.org/show/why-poverty/>

Next, watch the documentary and write a 750-1000 word reaction paper.

The paper should include the following:

a. Summary of the film (20 points):

Do not recall the entire film, just the details necessary for your analysis (apx 200 words).

b. 1 or 2 concepts from our class present in the film (40 points):

Identify, define, and discuss each of these concepts. Discuss how the film's treatment supports or challenges both your own preconceptions and what you've learned in class (apx 400 words).

c. Strengths and weaknesses of the film (20 points):

Identify and analyze what the film did well and what it did not do well. If any, what policy goals or actions does the film ask viewers to engage in? Are there any biases or paradoxes present? Discuss these. (apx 200 words).

d. Grammar, Organization, & Arguments (20 points):

See the remaining guidelines below.

e. Writing Center (+ 10 points):

Provide proof (picture of green card from appointment) that you implemented feedback on the initial draft of your paper from the writing center.

<http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/>

This assignment is not optional; you will receive a failing grade for the course if you fail to turn in acceptable reaction papers.

This assignment cannot be a paper utilized for another class, nor can it be one used by another student. It must be original, and your own. Failure to meet these requirements; either submitting a paper of your own which is unoriginal or used in a separate class (either in part or whole), or a paper not written by you alone, will result in a failing grade for the assignment (at a minimum), and being reported to university officials.

It will be graded based upon how clearly and thoroughly you accomplish the three tasks laid out above. *Do not simply summarize the film.*

Here are a few additional guidelines.

Use a reasonable (not Courier) 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, and double-space the text.

Include a word count at the end of the paper.

Consult a minimum of five sources.

Staple your paper, and do not put it in a folder or fancy cover.

Read your paper out loud. If you sound like a jerk, you are. Your goal is effective and efficient communication. In that spirit, parsimony is a virtue.

Write in reasonably coherent paragraphs.

Synthesize facts/the literature you include to the best of your ability, bringing it together in service of an argument that you want to make (rather than simply summarizing material).

There's no need for a cover page—save trees.

Put your identifying information in the top left or right corner of the first page, and then center your title below that.

Cite all material in a scholarly manner. APA, MLA, and Chicago style are accepted.

More about how I grade your assignments:

An **A** paper is a truly outstanding essay that demonstrates a well thought out and expressed argument, discrimination in the use of information and outside sources, and good analytical ability. These essays are well written, logically organized, and address *all the required elements* of the assignment.

A high **A** is considered exceptionally good. These essays will excel in several of the following criteria:

comprehensiveness and accuracy;

clarity of the argument and expression;

evidence of wider reading;

insight into theoretical issues discussed in class.

A **B** paper is a well-argued essay that addresses relevant material and shows a good understanding of critical concepts. These essays provide a clear, logical argument, and move beyond basic description of the topic at hand. At the same time, **B** essays will probably include a few stylistic mistakes; they will evidence an extensive, but uneven knowledge base; and they may miss out on some important issues.

A high B is a good, highly competent essay, which typically includes the following qualities:  
reasonably comprehensive;  
well-organized;  
evidence of some research;  
accurate and well-informed;  
demonstrating a good understanding of relevant details.

A C paper demonstrates only a partial ability to argue logically and organize material. These essays are generally accurate, but they evidence limited research-the knowledge base is nearly confined to course materials and/or unreliable sources. A C essay may identify appropriate subject matter and provide basic exposition, but it doesn't really develop an argument. It will contain stylistic errors and major omissions of content.

A D essay demonstrates a very limited ability to argue logically and organize material. The content is nearly confined to lecture material and fails to demonstrate a wider appreciation of the subject. These essays address the basic requirements of the assignment, but they will include errors and a very shallow exposition of the material.

A failing essay seriously lacks content and accuracy. Information will be poorly presented and organized, and include profound errors and omissions. These essays will provide assertions not supported by research or evidence, and demonstrate only a limited grasp of central concepts.