GUIDELINES: RESEARCH PAPERS AND PORTFOLIOS
POL 199
SPRING 2006

DUE: BY THE END OF EXAM PERIOD

REFLECTION ESSAY DIRECTIONS

The end of the semester is a time to reflect upon what you have learned, ponder how you have grown as a student and as an analyst of politics, and figure out what to prioritize as the next steps for you. Write a 1-2 page essay reflecting on your own performance and learning in the course. Answer the following questions:

• What are 1 or 2 major, big-picture insights I learned about politics in this course?
• Did I learn anything else from the course (about analysis, about writing, about myself, anything!)?
• What did I do well?
• What could I have improved?
• How can I use my strengths to improve in areas where I need improvement?

In answering the questions above, you can think about things like the following: How much effort did I put forth in the class? Was it sufficient? Why or why not? If yes, what was it that allowed you to commit an adequate amount of time & energy to this class? If not, what might you do in similar situations in the future to facilitate more effort? What was my participation like in class? What was the nature of your contributions? Were you asking questions when you were unclear about content? Were you synthesizing what others said? Were you introducing new ideas? How was your listening? Did you balance your amount of participation with that of others? Did you incorporate what others said when you then chose to speak? Did you solicit opinions from others? Etc. etc. etc.