



Choose Your Own Adventure: POL 51-13 Assignments Overview

These are the learning activities available to you this semester. You do not have to do all of them! Pick 100 points (or so) worth of things you'd like to do, then plan out how and when you'll do them; write this up as your first blog post, which you'll revisit at the middle and end of the course. **Blogging and Class Participation/Annotation are required**, but the rest is up to you. Some adventures have a linked assignment sheet, while the rest have a description below the list of adventures.

Adventures	Due Date/How to Submit	Points
Required: Weekly Blog	Write 1 entry each week on your blog. Read at least two classmates' blog posts each week. Final post & Grade Reflection due December 15.	20
Required: Class Participation & Annotation	Attend and actively participate in our weekly in person classes, and/or actively participate in the social annotation of our textbook.	10
Rewrite a Textbook Chapter	Group or Individual Proposal must be emailed to me by November 10. Final Version Due December 15.	20
What's Your Problem	by December 15- on your blog	20
Book Review	Get book approved by November 10 Final review due by December 15- on your site	15
Online Open Book Midterm	Take from October 24-30	15
Online Open Book Final Exam	Take from December 12-16	15
Meme	by October 10- as a blog post	15
Congressional Simulation	Ready for class on October 27	15
Film Review	by December 15, as a blog post	10
Design Your Own Assignment- photo essay, video, song, dance, sculpture, anything else	Email me with a project proposal for approval first; proposals submitted after November 10 are unlikely to be approved. Final project must be submitted by December 15.	10



10 Minute Class	by December 15, as a blog post	10
Translate a Week of Slides	Due by the end of the week the slides were used	7
Class Notetaker	Sign up for a week and post your notes from our in-class session by the end of the day on Thursday	5
2 Sentence Chapter	Contributions due by November 30 in <u>Domestic Policy Chapter</u>	5
Introduction Slide	by September 21- add your slide to the linked slideshow	5
Political Participation	by December 16- on your site or email	5
Chapter Infographic	by end of each week, on your site & licensed to share	5
Final Slide	by December 7- add your slide to linked slideshow	5

Adventure Explanations (for those that don't have linked assignment sheets)

Class Participation and Online Annotation (10 points)

During the week, we will each be reading and viewing from our assigned textbook at different points- join our private annotation group here so we can interact asynchronously throughout the week. We will meet all together in person on Thursdays. I understand that things will come up and that all students may not be able to make all sessions. I will trust you to make the choices you need to make for your best learning and your life (please do not ever come to class if you are feeling sick, and I promise not to either. There is flexibility built into this course for a reason!). You will include your self-grading assessment for your class attendance and online annotation in your final wrap up blog post.

Rewrite a Textbook Chapter (20 Points)

Don't like our assigned readings? Write better ones! Alone or as part of a group, rewrite a textbook chapter. Rewritten chapters must be appropriate for an introductory level college class and licensed for openly sharing. Group or Individual Proposal must be emailed to me no later than **November 13**. Final version due by **December 16**.

Book Review (15 Points)

Read a recent (published in the last ten years) scholarly book (written by an academic, not a "popular" book), that relates to our course topics, and write an academic book review. Please note, scholarly books are published in many languages, so you may choose one in any language you are comfortable reading, as long as it relates to our



course topics. Review should be 1-2 pages and should include both a summary of the contents of the book as well as your opinion and critique of the book. You can find information on how to write an academic book review, including a useful “classic book review structure” list [here](#). **Students must get their chosen book approved by me before November 13** in order to choose this adventure, and reviews must be submitted on your site or blackboard by December 16. I highly recommend [The New Jim Crow](#) or [Twitter and Tear Gas](#) (the former is available online through the KCC library, and the latter has a free, Creative Commons-licensed version available online [here](#))

Midterm and Final Examinations (15 points each)

There will be two online examinations for this course- a **midterm from October 24-30** and a **final exam from December 12-16**. The exams will be open book and open note, with unlimited time during the testing period; you will be allowed to attempt the exam as many times as you like while it is open, and only the highest grade will be counted into your points total.

Film Review (10 points)

View a recently produced **feature-length documentary film** (on Netflix/Hulu/iTunes/Roku/YouTube, etc- you do NOT have to go to the movies!) and write a review. The film you select must be a feature-length (not a short or a television episode or series) and must be a documentary, not a fictionalized film based on a real event. Review should be 1-2 pages, and include a summary of the film, with how you connect this film to our class. How does the film expand or deepen your knowledge of course topics? You can read more about writing a film review [here](#).

10 Minute Class (10 points)

One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it. Select something you think is important and teach it to a group of people (could be your family, your friends, a scout or church or youth or community group, etc.). Design and teach a 5 minute lesson, and handle 5 minutes of Q & A from the group. When you’re done, write up a blog post about what you did: how you set it up, how you prepared, what you did, how your audience reacted, and what you learned from the experience. Make sure to share any materials (handouts, slides, etc) that you used in the lesson in your blog post. Last day to submit is **December 16**.

Design Your Own Assignment (10 points)

Students who have an idea for an assignment that would further their learning may design their own assignment. Some ideas include: a photo essay, video, song, Tik-Tok series, sculpture, or anything else. Students wishing to choose this adventure must initiate discussion with me no later than **November 13**. Final project due no later than **December 16**.

Translate a Week of Slides (7 points)

If you are fluent in another language, you may translate a week of slides into that language. The translation should include explanations/descriptions of the visuals in slides in the language you are using. Make sure that you provide alt-text for all images in the language you have



chosen, and attach a [Creative Commons license](#) to your slides. Translations are due by the end of the week in which the slides were used in class (i.e. by Saturday of each week).

2 Sentence Chapter (5 points)

Together, we're going to write a Domestic Policy Chapter. Don't worry, we'll each only write 2 sentences. Each sentence you add must have a footnote for where you got your information, and the source must be a reputable academic source. Due by **December 4**.

Political Participation (5 Points)

To further activate your learning from this class, you need to do something with it! Please note, credit will only be given for socially distant COVID-19-safe participation- I don't want anyone risking their health for this class! Examples include, but are not limited to: Call/email one of your representatives in federal, state, or city government, phone or textbank for a candidate or cause you care about- there are lots of ways to participate politically that you can do from home or while socially distancing, or ways to participate in person but safely. Do something, then write 2-3 paragraphs explaining what you did, how it connects to the class topics, and what you learned from the experience. Students who have safety, legal, or other concerns about this assignment are encouraged to email me or discuss it with me in office hours. Reflections can be posted to your blog or emailed to me.

Chapter Infographic (5 points)

Make an infographic of the chapter we are covering this week. Post it to your blog, and license it for sharing. Your infographic must cite the sources you have used and explain the chapter, but the rest is up to you. You may use any program you like (Piktochart, Canva, and Vennage all have free options, or you can use Powerpoint/Google Slides/Word/Docs- whatever you choose). You can learn how to make an infographic here and read what makes a great infographic here. Remember to write and submit a self-grading assessment.