Assignment

*Précis/Response Papers*: (10%) Each week 2-3 people will take responsibility for preparing response papers to one or more of the readings. This includes writing a 3-5 page précis of the reading that a) lays out the main argument(s), b) indicates what you found provocative and/or mundane, and c) poses 3-4 questions for class discussion. These handouts will be distributed via email to the rest of the class by Sunday at 8 PM (using the course website). Everyone will prepare two précis over the course of the semester. Everyone who prepares a précis for the week should be prepared to provide a brief (2-3 minute) outline of the readings and their reactions to them as a contribution to discussion.

**Précis Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Area | **0** | **1 Passable** | **2 Good** | **3 Excellent** |
| Synopsis | No synopsis of argument (s) | Partially accurate or incomplete synopsis of argument (s) | Good synopsis of argument(s) | Concise, clear synopsis of argument(s) |
| Critical engagement with arguments  interesting, banal, counterintuitive, confusing?  Quality of data? How would we know if they were wrong?  Evidence for claim(s) about arguments? | No real engagement with argument(s) | Partial engagement with argument(s) but reasoning | **Good** engagement with argument(s) with clear and sound reasoning and evidence (highlights strengths, flaws, gaps, limits or weaknesses in arguments) | **Excellent**  Clear, systematic, engagement with arguments. Provides evidence for claims about argument(s) from readings; |
| Discusses relevance to broader themes in course | No clear connections made; like a stand alone book report | Makes some effort at making connections to other readings and/or issues | A good connection made to other readings and/or issues | Makes creative and integrated connections to other readings and/or issues |
| Highlights implications for politics and policy | No clear implication made | Some effort at implication for policy and politics; not clear or inaccurate | Clear implications for policy and politics are made | Thoughtful and reflective discussion of implications for policy and politics |
| Writing Style | Not well-written; Clearly not proofread; multiple grammar and spelling errors | Manageably written | Well-written; 1 or 2 minor errors | Beautifully written; No errors. |