

Below are six paper prompts, **please select one** for your final paper. You should be able to answer these questions in **6** double-spaced full pages, 12-point font, one-inch margins, not including references, abstract or title. You will likely have to use outside resources to gather arguments, evidence, and scholarship to make your case. Use as many or as few sources you need to make your case, but you will have a hard time making your argument with fewer than **five** academic sources. Sources coming from non-academic, Internet sites should be used sparingly, especially information coming from sources not sticking to mainstream journalistic standards of objectivity. In addition to clear and grammatically correct writing, successful papers will include a strong and **clear thesis statement**, evidence/arguments supporting that thesis statement, and a conclusion. The best papers will specifically address the prompt's question while applying appropriate background information useful in answering the question. Contrary to what you might think, the best papers in empirical political science are the easiest -- not hardest -- to read. Please do not plagiarize or use a paper from a similar course, you will be caught.

1. **Texas.** Texas is one of the few majority-minority states, yet still is strongly Republican in its voting and legislative representation. However, the cracks in the GOP control of Texas are starting to show. If both Beto O'Rourke and Julian Castro run for president, in your opinion, which candidate has the better chance of defeating Trump in Texas? You may want to cite some of Dr. Collingwood's own research on the topic (freely available on his website).
2. **Asian-American Voting.** Even though Asian Americans often have high socio-economic status (SES), their voting behavior is often atypical of what voter models would suggest. Historically, those with higher SES have higher voter turnout/participation, and tend to vote more Republican. But, those statements, in the main, do not hold for Asian-American voters -- although it certainly does for some. **Why is this?** Be sure to cite the text and academic sources.
3. **Colorblindness.** Why is race taboo to speak about in American life, particularly in multicultural settings? **Specifically, does colorblindness aid our racial problems or perpetuate racial problems?** Or is colorblindness both "good" and "bad", and if so, why? Be sure to use text from the course and any outside academic scholarship.
4. **Group Consciousness.** Research indicates, relative to white Americans, black Americans – in general – have high levels of group consciousness and linked fate. **Do these qualities apply to all racial/ethnic groups, if so, how much, and how accurate are these descriptions?** Why are there differences across different groups – including whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians, and other groups.
5. In the course of doing their jobs, police in the United States seem to shoot more people than is common in other industrialized democracies (e.g., England or France). People of color, particularly blacks and Latinos, tend to more commonly be the unfortunate victims of police shootings. Using arguments/evidence from *Mass Incarceration: The Rise of Jim Crow* and *Blind Spot*, what are the structural and psychological reasons we continue to observe the disproportionate deaths of blacks and Latinos at the hands of police officers? Cough your argument in the literature, anecdotes are unhelpful in answering this question.
6. Archarya et al (2018) provide convincing evidence that Southern whites -- especially those living in the Deep South -- are more racially conservative than are whites outside of the South. Given their theory of behavioral transmission of attitudes, is there any hope (broadly considered) for the South? In your answer you might consider demographic trends, education rates, inter-marriage, candidate style, and political polarization.