

Ethics & Global Economics Course Assignments

Small Assignments: Readings, Discussion Questions, and Short Reflections

Throughout the semester, you will be charged with reading various texts outside of class. We will discuss those texts together in class. Throughout the semester there are various dates on which you must submit *two discussion questions* the night before class. On other days, you will be asked to write a reflection on the reading or on a course activity. **These questions and reflections are due at 8:00 a.m. on the Blackboard site the morning before class listed on the syllabus unless otherwise noted.** Your questions should note something you did not understand from the reading, or raise a concern you had in light of what you read (such as a criticism, or a clarification question). The reflections will have specific instructions regarding content, but will be about a paragraph each.

Discussion Questions Assessment

Your discussion questions will be graded as follows:

- 10/10 pts- Two questions submitted that demonstrate having read the material.
- 5/10 pts- Two questions submitted, but do not demonstrate having read the material.
- 3/10- One question submitted.
- 0/10 pts- No questions submitted.

To demonstrate that you have read the material, your questions should be *specific* and refer to a particular part of the text or particular line of argument. In addition, **you should briefly summarize (in 1-2 sentences) the parts of the text that gave rise to your question.**

Reflection Assessment

Your reflections will be graded as follows:

- 10/10 pts- Provides a thorough, clear response to the reflection prompt.
- 5/10 pts- Provides a complete, but unclear response to the reflection prompt.
- 3/10 pts- Provides an incomplete response.
- 0/10 pts- No response provided.

At the end of the semester, your grades on the discussion questions and reflections will be averaged, and this will constitute your discussion question grade.

Medium Assignments: Blog Posts

The second written assignments for this course are in the form of blog posts. You will belong to a group of three or four students who must all contribute to a blog throughout the semester. The posts will be structured as follows. Your group will select one contemporary problem in global economics. Every two weeks, each member of your group will contribute to the blog, and you will discuss your findings in class. *If you are absent for a blog group discussion, you will receive a 15 pt. deduction from your blog post grade for that week.* In addition to the blog posts, the group will be responsible for leading a class discussion on the ethical implications of the policy you've chosen.

Blog Entries

Every two weeks, one member of your group will write a *primary blog entry* about your chosen topic. Then, another group member will be responsible for responding to the primary post in a *response post*. Finally, you will discuss your group's primary and response posts in class, and the final group member will be responsible for summarizing the group's findings in a *conclusion post*.

The specific instructions for each primary, response, and conclusion posts are listed below.

****Please note that every group member is responsible for writing one primary post for posts 2-4 and one primary post for posts 5-7.****

Post 1: Topic Selection (Written and discussed in class)

Primary Post 1: In class, select an economic topic or policy of interest, and give a very brief (1 paragraph or less) explanation of that topic or policy on the group blog. Please ensure that all group members agree to the chosen topic. List the features of the topic or policy that you will research for blog posts 2-4, and record who will be responsible for each primary, response, and conclusion post going forward. [**Note: there is no response or conclusion post for blog post 1.**]

Posts 2-4: Research Phase (Written at home, discussed in class)

Primary posts 2-4 should provide an explanation of the policy or topic you have chosen to analyze. Break the topic into three manageable pieces, and research and explain those pieces in primary posts 2-4. Primary posts 2-4 should be 300-400 words.

Response posts 2-4 should identify any components of the week's primary post that are unclear, and identify two or more aspects of the topic (as it is discussed in the primary post) that seem to constitute an ethical problem. Note: No ethical analysis is needed for these posts, just a brief lists of the aspects of the cases that may constitute ethical problems. Response posts 2-4 should be 200-300 words.

Conclusion posts 2-4 should record any components of the primary post or conclusion posts that should be changed or adopted in the final version, and explain what aspect of the topic the group will explore in the next set of posts. Conclusion posts should be no more than 200 words.

Posts 5-7: Analysis Phase (Written at home, discussed in class)

Each primary post in the analysis phase should provide an ethical analysis of the problem from an ethical or political perspective discussed in class. What is good or bad about the particular aspect of the policy you've chosen? In sum, these three primary posts will provide three different ethical and political perspectives on your issue. Primary posts 5-7 should be 500-700 words.

Note: at the end of the semester, you will be putting all of these posts together into one cohesive policy paper. It may help to focus on one ethical problem or perspective throughout posts 5-7 so that the final product has a cohesive theme.

Response posts 5-7 should raise a criticism or provide further support for the argument posed in the primary post. Response posts 5-7 should be 300-400 words.

Conclusion posts 5-7 should summarize the blog's findings for the week, and explain what (a) ethical problem will be discussed and (b) what ethical approach will be used in the next week's posts. Conclusion posts should be no more than 200 words.

Post 8: Conclusion (Written and discussed in class)

Primary Post 8: Working together as a group, look back at your analysis. What are your main findings? Do any of the ethical approaches you used seem particularly strong or weak? Conclude your findings in a short post. This post should be a maximum of 400 words.

Self-Assessments

Every other Friday, students will meet with their groups in class to discuss their progress on the blogs. Before that discussion, students will complete a short self-assessment of their work in class.

Group Presentation

Finally, your group will be charged with giving a twenty-minute presentation on your chosen topic to the class at the end of the semester. Following your presentation, the class will ask questions and discuss.

Blog Post Assessment

You will be evaluated on your primary blog posts, response posts, conclusion posts, and self-assessments according to the Blog Assignment Rubrics. Please see the Presentation Rubric as you design your class presentation.

Blog Post Schedule

Group Number _____
Group Topic _____

Blog Post 1: Topic Selection

Blog Post 1 – Due Friday September 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Blog Posts 2-4: Research Phase

Blog Post 2 – Monday September 12-Friday September 16

Group member _____ will be responsible for primary blog post 2.
Primary post due Monday September 12 at 8:00 p.m.
Group member _____ will be responsible for response post 2.
Response post due Wednesday September 14 at 8:00 p.m.
Group member _____ will be responsible for conclusion post 2.
Conclusion Post due Friday September 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Blog Post 3 – Monday September 26-Friday September 30

Group member _____ will be responsible for primary blog post 3.
Primary post due Monday September 26 at 8:00 p.m.
Group member _____ will be responsible for response post 3.
Response post due Wednesday September 28 at 8:00 p.m.
Group member _____ will be responsible for conclusion post 3.
Conclusion Post Due Friday September 30 at 8:00 p.m.

Blog Post 4 – Monday October 10-Friday October 14

Group member _____ will be responsible for primary blog post 4.
Primary post due Monday October 10 at 8:00 p.m.
Group member _____ will be responsible for response post 4.
Response post due Wednesday October 12 at 8:00 p.m.
Group member _____ will be responsible for conclusion post 4.
Conclusion Post Due Friday October 14 at 8:00 p.m.

****Note: Blog Post 5 is due the week after blog post 4. There is no interim week.****

Blog posts 5-7: Analysis Phase

Blog Post 5 – Monday October 17-Friday October 21

- Group member _____ will be responsible for primary blog post 6.
Primary post due Monday October 17 at 8:00 p.m.
- Group member _____ will be responsible for response post 6.
Response post due Wednesday October 19 at 8:00 p.m.
- Group member _____ will be responsible for conclusion post 6.
Conclusion Post Due Friday October 21 at 8:00 p.m.

Blog Post 6 – Monday October 31-Friday November 4

- Group member _____ will be responsible for primary blog post 6.
Primary post due Monday October 31 at 8:00 p.m.
- Group member _____ will be responsible for response post 6.
Response post due Wednesday November 2 at 8:00 p.m.
- Group member _____ will be responsible for conclusion post 6.
Conclusion Post Due Friday November 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Blog Post 7 – Monday November 14-Friday November 18

- Group member _____ will be responsible for primary blog post 7.
Primary Post Due Monday November 14 at 8:00 p.m.
- Group member _____ will be responsible for response post 7.
Response Post Due Wednesday November 16 at 8:00 p.m.
- Group member _____ will be responsible for conclusion post 7.
Conclusion Post Due Friday November 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Blog Post 8: Conclusion

Blog Post 8 – Due Monday November 28 at 8:00 p.m.

Blogging Rubric

Blog Post 1

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content	The post gives a clear explanation of the topic the group has chosen (approx. 1 paragraph).	The post gives a somewhat unclear explanation of the topic the group has chosen.	The post states the name of the policy or topic, but gives no further detail.	The post fails to indicate what topic the group has chosen.
Three Components	The post explains how the topic will be broken into three pieces for research in posts 2-4.	The post gives a vague explanation as to how the topic will be broken down.	-----	The post fails to explain how the topic will be divided among posts 2-4.
Style	Writing is clear.	Writing is somewhat clear.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Group Agreement	All members of the group agree, and the post says "All members have agreed to this topic and schedule."	-----	It is unclear whether all group members have agreed to the plan.	No group agreement is noted.
Plan of Action	The post lists who will be responsible for each primary, response, and conclusion posts going forward.	-----	The post gives an incomplete list as to who will be responsible for each post.	No list of the group's responsibilities is given.

Blogging Rubric

Primary Posts 2-4

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content	The post gives a clear explanation of the component of the topic designated for the week, and the explanation is mostly accurate.	The post gives a somewhat unclear explanation of the topic at hand, or the post has several inaccuracies.	The post states the name of the policy or topic, but gives no further detail, or the post is very inaccurate.	The post fails to indicate what topic the group has chosen, or the post is entirely inaccurate.
Style	Writing is clear. Technical terms are explained. Post could be understood by an intelligent outside reader.	Writing is somewhat clear. Some terms are left undefined.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure.	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Contribution to Group Work	The post contributes to the overall group blog without (a) repeating information already discussed in previous posts or (b) taking over the work designated to other group members.	The post does its job, but is somewhat repetitive.	The post is repetitive, incomplete, and/or infringes on the work of other group members.	The post does not contribute to the group blog.
Length	Post is a maximum of 400 words.	Post is more than 400 words.	-----	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Blogging Rubric

Response Posts 2-4

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content - Clarification	The post notes any points of confusion in the primary post.	The post fails to recognize one or more areas of the original post that require clarification.	-----	The post fails to recognize any of the areas of the original post that need clarification.
Content- Analysis	The post lists two or more aspects of the original post that seem to constitute a potential ethical dilemma. (No ethical analysis is required for posts 2-4).	The post lists one aspect of the original post that seems to constitute a potential ethical dilemma. (No ethical analysis is required for posts 2-4).	-----	The post fails to identify any areas of the original post that may pose an ethical dilemma.
Style	Writing is clear.	Writing is somewhat clear. Some terms are left undefined.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure.	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Length	Post is no more than 300 words.	Post is more than 300 words.	-----	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Blogging Rubric

Conclusion Posts 2-4

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content - Clarification	The post notes any points of confusion in the primary post and how they ought to be fixed.	The post fails to recognize one or more areas of the original post that require clarification or fails to note how they ought to be fixed.	----- --	The post fails to recognize any of the areas of the original post that need clarification.
Content- Planning Ahead	The post explains what the group will discuss in the upcoming set of posts.	The post gives a vague explanation as to what will be discussed next.	----- ---	The post fails to identify what will be discussed next.
Style	Writing is clear.	Writing is somewhat clear. Some terms are left undefined.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure. <i>Bullet points may be used.</i>	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Length	Post is no more than 200 words.	Post is more than 200 words.	----- --	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Blogging Rubric
Source: Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence

Primary Posts 5-7

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Thesis Statement	There is a clear thesis statement at the beginning of the post that explains what the post will argue, and how the argument will be structured.	There is a clear thesis, but it is not stated. The organization of the piece is not made clear up front.	There is a thesis, but it is neither clear nor explicitly stated.	There is no thesis.
Explanation of the Problem	The post contains an accurate summary of the aspect of the group's blog topic that will be analyzed. The ethical problem is clear.	The post contains an incomplete summary of the blog topic that will be analyzed, but it is clear that an ethical problem exists.	The post summarizes the issue to be analyzed, but fails to show why it constitutes an important ethical problem (the post is unmotivated).	The post does not give an explanation of the topic to be analyzed.
Explanation of Ethical Viewpoint	The post contains an accurate summarization of the ethical view that will be used for analysis. Direct quotes are kept to a minimum.	The post contains a fairly good summarization of the ethical view.	The ethical view is presented poorly, and is inaccurate.	No summary of the ethical view is provided.
Analysis	The analysis of the policy is clear, and backed up by an argument that is mostly thorough.	The argument provided is mostly strong, but misses some steps or includes some misunderstandings.	There are multiple issues with the analysis provided in the argument.	There is no argument provided for the author's position.
Style	Writing is clear. Technical terms are explained. Post could be understood by an intelligent person unfamiliar with the issue.	Writing is somewhat clear. Some terms are left undefined.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure.	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Length	Post is a max. of 700 words.	Post is more than 700 words.	-----	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Blogging Rubric

Response Posts 5-7

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content – Response to Primary Post	The post explains what aspect of the primary post the author wishes to critique or support.	It's clear which part of the primary post the author is responding to, but it isn't explicitly stated.	It's not clear what aspect of the primary post is being responded to.	There's no clear connection between the response post and primary post.
Content- Argument	The post critiques or supports an aspect of the original post, and provides an original argument to justify the author's claims.	The post critiques/supports the primary post, but provides an unclear or incomplete justification.	-----	The post does not provide any justification for its argument or critique.
Style	Writing is clear.	Writing is somewhat clear. Some terms are left undefined.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure.	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Length	Post is no more than 400 words.	Post is more than 400 words.	-----	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Blogging Rubric

Conclusion Posts 5-7

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content – Summary of Week’s Posts	The post summarizes the main points of both the primary and response post.	The post provides an incomplete summary of the primary or response posts.	----- --	No summary of the week’s posts are provided.
Content- Planning Ahead	The post explains which ethical viewpoint will be used, and what topic will be analyzed, in the next week’s posts.	The post gives a vague explanation as to what will be discussed next.	----- ---	The post fails to identify what will be discussed next.
Style	Writing is clear.	Writing is somewhat clear. Some terms are left undefined.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure. <i>Bullet points may be used.</i>	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Length	Post is no more than 200 words.	Post is more than 200 words.	----- --	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Blogging Rubric

Blog Post 8

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content – Summary	The post summarizes the main findings of the group blog.	The post provides an incomplete summary of the blog’s findings.	-----	No summary of the blog is provided.
Style	Writing is clear.	Writing is somewhat clear.	Writing is unclear.	Writing is incomprehensible.
Organization	The post is well organized, using appropriate paragraph breaks and sentence structure.	The post is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The post is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Length	Post is no more than 400 words.	Post is more than 400 words.	-----	Post is extremely short or extremely long.

Self-Assessment Rubric

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content	The assessment identifies real, honest strengths and weaknesses of the student's post.	The post identifies most of the strengths and weaknesses of the student's post.	-----	The student does not identify any of major strengths/weaknesses of his/her post.
Thoroughness	All parts of the self-assessment are completed.	-----	Most of the assessment is completed.	The self-assessment is largely incomplete.

Presentation Rubric

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Content	The presentation summarizes the main topic and analyses from the group's blog.	The presentation provides an incomplete summary of the group's findings.	-----	No summary of the group's work is provided.
Style	Presentation is clear.	Presentation is somewhat clear.	Presentation is unclear.	Presentation is incomprehensible.
Organization	The presentation is well organized and easy to follow.	The presentation is somewhat organized, but could be improved.	The presentation is very disorganized and hard to follow as a result.	There is no organization whatsoever.
Group Work	The student contributes his or her fair share to the planning and execution of the presentation.	The student contributes slightly less than other group members.	-----	The student does not contribute his or her fair share to the planning and execution of the presentation.
Project Review	The student completes the post-presentation group review form.	-----	-----	The student does not complete the post-presentation group review form.
Length	Presentation is no more than 35 minutes, plus 15 minutes left for discussion.	Presentation goes over 35 minutes.	-----	There is no time management.

“Big” Assignments: Course Papers

Paper 1

Each student will be asked to write a short paper in which they will demonstrate their understanding of course material halfway through the semester.

Paper 2 (Policy Brief)

Paper 2 is a group paper that will tie all of your blogging work into one cohesive policy brief. You will be given time in class to work on paper 2.

Paper Assessments

Papers will be assessed according to their respective rubrics. Rubrics will be handed out with the paper assignment.

