Guidelines for Term Paper

Due dates.  Proposal Tuesday, November 15th.  Term paper Thursday, December 8th.

Purpose.  The first and most important step in writing a term paper is to find an issue you would like to discuss at length. We have already discussed several international issues and institutions any of which may serve as a starting point for your term paper. However, these were very general discussions. You will be well served to focus your question on a specific issue. For instance, rather than looking at NAFTA, focus on some issue related to NAFTA. There is only one restriction: your paper must relate, in some significant way, to international trade or finance.

Proposal.  A short (about one page) proposal is due in class on Tuesday, November 15th. You are welcome to present your proposals prior to this date but under no circumstances will late assignments be accepted. This proposal will briefly outline the question you are interested in exploring as well as a preliminary discussion as to why it is interesting and how you will go about answering this question.

Term Paper.  Your term paper is due in class on Thursday, December 8th. You are welcome to present your assignment prior to this date but under no circumstances will late assignments be accepted. This paper is to be from five to seven typewritten pages of text. Spacing of either 1.5 or 2 is acceptable accompanied by standard margins. If need be, diagrams and tables may be included after your references.

As a courtesy, any papers turned in before Thanksgiving Break (Friday, November 18th) will be returned after the break (Tuesday, November 29th) with “suggestions.” However, no grade will be assigned at this time.

Plagiarism.  Referencing and plagiarism were not significant factors in your issue papers. As was discussed in class, your term papers will be held to a much higher standard in these regards. Poor referencing will result in diminished grades. Cases of plagiarism (definition: writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work) will result in FAILURE FOR THE CLASS.

Grading.  The proposals will be assigned to one of two categories: Adequate and Poor. Adequate proposals will receive full marks (5 points) while Inadequate proposals will receive no points. This decision will be based, not upon the merits of the proposal, but upon the quality of the work presented.

Your term papers will be assigned to one of three categories: Good, Adequate, and Poor. These will be assigned 15, 10 and 5 points, respectively. This decision will be based upon several factors (how interesting is the question, is the question answered thoroughly, how is the overall presentation, etcetera).