

## **POSC 103.101: American National Government**

**Dr. McTague**

### **Research Assignment 1**

#### **Selection of a target population and policy**

#### **Directions (from the syllabus, p.8):**

Due on 9/22, each student must submit a 1-2 page paper identifying the target population and policy they wish to analyze for their semester research. This assignment will serve as a rough draft of the final paper's introduction.

#### **A More Detailed Prompt:**

For this assignment, you should compose about 3 paragraphs and have at least 2 outside sources cited both in parenthetical citations in the text of your writing and in a page of references at the end of your writing.

#### **How to Organize Your Writing:**

1. **First paragraph(s):** Summarize the general theory articulated in the Schneider and Ingram article assigned on 9/10 as a way to set up your own preliminary thesis. This summary should be brief (1, maybe 2 paragraphs) and should conclude with a clear statement of your target population and the policy area(s) you will analyze as having an impact on your target population. In this statement, articulate an *argument* that gives the reader a sense for what you expect to find in your research. Your argument should answer the question, "How does the Schneider and Ingram article apply to my target population?"
2. **Second paragraph:** Answer the "So what?" and "Who cares?" questions. Why is your target population and policy important to study? Who else would agree with you that your topic is important to study?
3. **Third paragraph:** Preview the rest of your paper. Review pages 8-9 of the syllabus, which outlines each step of the research project. What do you think is the target population's social construction? Are they given beneficial or punitive treatment by government? What is the nature of their interaction with the government? What reform, if any, is needed?

#### **Citations:**

By the end of the semester, you are required to have a minimum of 10 citations, 7 of which must be of a scholarly nature. I will guide you in discerning the difference between scholarly and non-scholarly sources as the semester progresses, so don't worry too much about that right now. For this assignment, just be sure to have 2 sources, not including the Schneider and Ingram article, that speak directly to your target population and policy focus. Your citation style

should be one of the following: MLA, APA, or APSA. All of these citation styles use parenthetical citations in the text. This means you should avoid using endnotes or footnotes as your citation style (e.g., Chicago Style).