

**PS 140 Intro to Comparative Politics**  
**Term Paper Abstracts and Outlines – Peer Review Guide**

Read an outline in its entirety before completing this sheet. You may mark on the abstract/ outline; please return them to their authors at the end of class. You may also wish to exchange contact information with your peer review group, since you'll be working with them for the later phases of the project as well. Responses going beyond "yes" and "no" are most appreciated.

| <b>Criterion</b>   |  |  | <b>Feedback on Mine</b> |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| Identify the ...dependent variable:<br>Independent variable:   |  |  |                         |
| Does the paper's thesis make an <i>argument</i> , rather than stating a fact? Is the argument causal?  |  |  |                         |
| Comment on the appropriateness of the topic/thesis for the assignment.   |  |  |                         |
| Does the author sufficiently justify his/her case selection, or at least leave room for it in the paper? Is it convincing, given what you know about this and other related topics?                                |  |  |                         |
| Identify the control variables (or alternative explanations to be ruled out) in the essay. Can you think of any more?  |  |  |                         |
| Do the author's proposed cases provide sufficient variance for explanation on both the dependent and independent variables? Are control variable values sufficiently similar to allow credible comparison?         |  |  |                         |
| Comment on operationalization and measurement issues. Do the indicators reflect their underlying concepts, and are they appropriate for their theoretical purpose?   |  |  |                         |
| Does the outline suggest that the author has acquired sufficient data to support his/her argument?   |  |  |                         |
| Comment on the author's intended data sources. Does the author use (or plan to use) primary sources, library books, and at least one professional journal article? Can you recommend other potential data sources? |  |  |                         |
| Is the abstract written in an academically appropriate tone and style? Does it provide a succinct sense of the paper's motivation, main argument, and findings?  |  |  |                         |