**Part I- Analyze Seminar/Lecture/Tutorial Discussion**

For this component you will identify and discuss an issue we talked about in our seminar at the class before the due date. Identify and critically engage with one idea/concept/issue dealt with in class that attracted interest and in a scholarly manner explain why it is important.

It is important to critically engage with the ideas in a scholarly manner. Ensure you have a clear thesis and supporting arguments. Refer to the Assignment Evaluations section of this syllabus.

Anything we discuss that piques your interest can be used for this part of the assignment it all depends on the topics we discuss.

You should have a thesis and include reference to other scholarly work.

**400 words**

**Part II Analyze Readings**

For the discuss the readings component of the Academic Brief you will write about an issue that you found interesting in the readings for the day the assignment is due. Choose one of the readings, required or recommended.

Using your own words and in a critical and scholarly manner, identify and critically engage with one idea/concept/issue you found of interest in the reading. Discuss the idea or issue developed in the article that intrigued you and that you would like to discuss further in class.

**Create 2 questions** that relate to the article and larger issues discussed in the class. These questions may be used for in-class discussion and debate.

You should have a thesis and include reference to other scholarly work.

**400 Words**

**Part III Connect Analysis of Current Events/Social Media**

Students will include all of the part III requirements in their single cuLearn submission for the academic brief. **Part 1, II and III of the assignment are all due at the same time in the same file with all of the requirements listed in the assignment.** For example, if you choose to, or choose not to, post your commentary on FB or the discussion board, you still need to include  your commentary on the cuLearn submission for the assignment

**1.** Cite the url and title of one media item (article, podcast or video clip) that relates to issues discussed during this class or in the readings. You can post it on the class cuLearn discussion board or the class Facebook page Tamara Kotar. If you post to the Class FB page, Tamara Kotar, be sure to include the course code with a hashtag so that it is known this was posted for a class requirement. On your discussion board or Facebook posting you can choose to explain why the link may enhance understanding of the topic discussed in class.

However, **you must include your 250 word commentary in the cuLearn submission.**

**250 words**

**2.** Cite the url and title of a media time (article, podcast or video clip) that you found interesting, posted by anyone else (from any class or even the prof.) on the class FB or the class Discussion Group. However, **you must include your 250 word commentary in the cuLearn submission.**

Andy Chia - 101111058

Dr. Tamara Kotar

PSCI1200A

5 August 2000

#3 Academic Brief

Part I - Analyze Seminar/Lecture/Tutorial Discussion

The study of the human brain is very important in politics to better understand a person’s tendencies, behaviors and future decisions. Where parts of an individual’s life might affect their decisions and personality that could lead them to control certain events to behave erratically. This section will argue that it is important to understand the psychology of governmental members to make better decision making and provide a better leadership. We will talk about problems that will manipulate decisions when not expected and what makes a person to act a certain way.

For governmental bodies, there are many decisions getting pushed out through laws or opinions. At the top of those bodies, there is a leader that guides and direct decisions throughout discussions. There are two types of leaders that will take control of governmental power: Independent Leaders and Participatory Leaders. Understanding what kind of leader that a government party possesses is important in proper decision making. As civilians of a government, it is in best interest to choose a leader that can make better decisions, and where the opinion of a single person might affect the livelihood of our lives. But that does not mean that participatory leaders are the right decision, a problem that arises from group decisions is groupthink. “Groupthink is a phenomenon that occurs when a group of well-intentioned people make irrational or non-optimal decisions” (Psychology Today, 2020), this is the major problem of group decision making, it is also really well explained and analysed in Irving Janis’ (1918 – 1990) *8 shortcomings of groupthink*. With proper understanding of groupthink to members of a group, poor or irrational decision making can be avoided.

With the theory of the Tabula Rasa, the mind has no knowledge, it gains knowledge from experiences and perception. For a leader to be transparent with their past and background will help us decide on who will become the leader of our country. Also knowing the background on governmental members is important to have them hold a governmental position. A problem with not knowing the theory of the Tabula Rasa is the hiring of governmental members, Trump is known for hiring people with a controversial personality or background, one being Stephen Miller known to be a white supremacist.

As technology develops, cognitive understanding of people will further develop, and this will assist us in the decision of electing our leaders. The understanding of how the mind work is the most effective way to make decisions.

Part II - Analyze Readings

International laws are followed by all countries under the United Nations (UN), this sets the question: Do they really follow any international laws? These international laws are generally made to help and protect all of humanity. Where these laws may be enforced by the government of the country or not, these will be up to the government. This section will talk about why laws are not always to be followed. Where laws help the lively hood of its people, and why law will sometimes not in turn be followed.

Laws are usually made to protect, direct and control its citizens of the country. Where it could be the protection of human rights to driving on the right lane of the road, laws are used to guide people and punish those who do not. Usually laws follow the norms and people respect them since it supports them for their convenience. When laws become an inconvenience to people, they are usually not following as obediently as others because of the strictness of it. Laws that are made specifically for individuals or groups such as gangs or criminals could be used at people outside of those groups but are less enforced.

Laws are followed by people to their own convenience, when it becomes an inconvenience, they tend to not be followed as much. The enforcement of international laws follows the same suit, if it is convenient to the country and its people, it will be followed, but once it becomes a nuisance and inconvenience, they are disobeyed and no longer enforced. Examples of this is the sea borders of south east Asia, its an intense dispute between China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines and Taiwan. Where an estimated US$3.37 trillion worth of global trade is made annually. A problem happening currently in 2020, are the Xinjiang re-education camps in China, where clear sings of inhumane treatment of Uyghurs and Muslims located at the north-west of China that were brought to these re-education camps. It is a controversial subject to the international laws in human rights placed by the united nations. Because of the intense amount of conflicts between that area and the government of china, for resources, and land that could be used for plans of renewable energy, it is an important area for the Chinese government to make trade and populate. Surprisingly, 54 countries are in favor for the re-education camps including multiple Muslim countries against the 20 countries against it. Most of the countries that have signed in favor for the re-education camps have been heavily supported by china financially.

Laws are used to protect people for their rights in life and will follow them to their convenience. Will enforcing international laws to 100% improve the lives of other and not cause conflicts? Would governments be able to achieve their goals without breaking any international laws?

Part III Connect Analysis of Current Events/Social Media

With China concealing their intense re-education camps to control the population of Uyghurs in the north-west of china, it has became extremely revealing how inhumane actions from a country can be allowed and blindly looks away and ignored. Because China has so much power, in military and economically, they have gained the support of 54 countries for the approval of those re-education camps against 20 countries. The use of power to convert people to follow their propaganda at the same time on such a large scale.

To conclude, with enough influence, military power and money, countries are able to break international laws of human rights to achieve their goals with the support of other countries that are dependant of them.

Work Cited

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