

# **Current International Affairs News Analysis**

**Professor Chong-Pin Lin**

Tel:2396-8760 x 28 • Fax:2391-7350

Website:cplin.idv.st

<http://dctsp.ec.tku.edu.tw/QuickPlace/124008qp/Main.nsf>

## **Course Description**

Analysis of international news which may be political, economic, scientific, or cultural in nature. The course consists of background lectures, cultivation of critical thinking expressed in commentary writing, class discussions, and a short research paper.

## **Course Requirements**

■ attendance	10%
■ participation in discussions	20%
■ commentaries	40%
■ term paper & presentation	30%

## **Commentaries**

Students are required to submit short typed papers each focused on a given news article assigned by the professor, which provides the basis for class discussion. The paper is 200-750 words in length as stipulated in class.

## **Term Paper**

Students are required to submit a research paper (4,000-5,000 words, typed, double-spaced) on a chosen news topic approved by the professor.

## **Readings**

Reading materials will be provided by the professor.

# COMMENTARY : suggested format

*Professor Chong-Pin Lin      2007.9.1*

*If you comment on an article (or a book ,a film etc.) What aspects of the article should you present?*

## I. Theme (Main thesis) : **What does it say in a nutshell?**

Present the theme or the core argument/observation of the article in a complete sentence.

## II. Implications: **What does it imply/signify without saying?**

Explore what lies outside of the article but derives from what the article talks about.

## III. Surprises (News/Revelations) : **What did you not expect in the article? Or what have you learned that you did not know before?**

Spell out what you originally anticipated before reading the article, and then point out what you read in the article that is contrary to/different from your prior expectation. Or state what the article has taught you that you were not aware of.

## IV. Queries: **What would you like to question the author about?**

You may ask either or both of the two types of questions:

- A. Critical questions: to express your reservations/disagreement/disapproval.
- B. Complimentary questions: to express your appreciation or respect of the author. Usually, it is a question to fathom the thinking of the author.

## V. Evaluations: **What are the strengths and weaknesses of the article?**

List the strengths and weaknesses of the article preferably in equal numbers to show your objectivity, at least in appearance.

# POSITION PAPERS : suggested format

*Professor Chong-Pin Lin 2006.2.16*

To **compare** two articles (or books, films etc), use “similarities & differences”. To **critique** one, use “strengths & weaknesses”.

<b>TITLE</b>		
(Use the boldest prints. The primary title should be “jazzy” and short. The secondary title provides a technical description of the subject matter)		(Number of words)
<b>(Introduction)</b>	(No need of a title. Start the text directly)	<u>150</u>
<b>I. Similarities</b>		
(Strengths)	(Insert a sentence introducing A,B, & C)	
	<b>A Subheading</b>	200
	<b>B Subheading</b>	200
	<b>C Subheading</b>	200
	(Insert a sentence concluding A,B, & C)	<b>600</b>
<b>II. Differences</b>		
(Weaknesses)	(Insert a sentence introducing A,B, & C)	
	<b>A Subheading</b>	200
	<b>B Subheading</b>	200
	<b>C Subheading</b>	200
	(Insert a sentence concluding A,B, & C)	<b>600</b>
<b>III. Conclusions</b>		<b>150</b>
	(Do similarities outweigh differences? Or otherwise? Why?)	<u>1,500</u>
	(Are there overall observations hitherto unexpressed?)	