
Final Paper Proposal Guidelines

Political Economy of Armed Conflict

Winter Session, 2014
Binghamton University

(Due: Jan. 12 [5:00pm EST])

1 OVERVIEW

Students are expected, before they write their final paper, to submit a research paper proposal. The proposal will be no less than 2 pages in length (double space, 12pt font, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman). Include a separate page for citations (see citation style below). Base your proposal on the following:

- Discuss the research question that drives your paper. Why are you writing this paper; why is it an interesting topic?
- Discuss how your question fits in the literature you have read for this class. What is your contribution to the existing literature?
- Discuss the broader merit of this research project—why is this paper topic important? It's *important* to know why your research paper is *important*. If you can't answer this question, the paper will be hard to write (I know this from experience).
- In a couple sentences, tell me what you're arguing in the final paper.

Students will be notified if the paper topic they have chosen is appropriate three days after submission; if not, they will have to make revisions. I will respond with comments and advice.

2 PAPER TOPICS

Since the duration of this course is short, please contact me early if you have any questions about a paper topic that you may want to explore.

3 CITATIONS

Students will be expected to cite sources when taking material from other readings. Plagiarism will receive severe punishments, and will result in *at least* a grade of **0** for the paper, if not worse (see the syllabus). You will be expected to use in-text citations and have a reference page that follows the style described below. I will give examples for articles, books, and chapters in what follows (please ask me for further citation styles if necessary):

3.1 In-Text Citation

- **Article:** (Fearon 1995) or Fearon (1995)
- **Book:** (Reiter 2009) or Reiter (2009)
- **Chapter in Edited Book:** (Frieden & Lake 2000) or Frieden & Lake (2000)

REFERENCES

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49(3):379–414.

Frieden, Jeffrey A. & David A. Lake. 2000. "Introduction: International Politics and International Economics." In *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power*, ed. Jeffrey A. Frieden & David A. Lake. 4th ed. New York: W.W. Norton and Company Chapter 1, pp. 1–16.

Reiter, Dan. 2009. *How Wars End*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.