

# Review Paper Guidelines

## War & Power in International Politics

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### 1 Introduction

During the semester, students will be expected to write 2 review papers. You will be expected to write each review with respect to the material and readings presented in the course. In other words, don't just write a summary of all the readings. Also, if the reading is one of the assigned books, feel free to review a chapter or two, rather than the entire book. The purpose of these reviews is to have students begin to critically assess the merit of the material presented in the course. Also, the hope is that these assignments will help students develop critical thinking skills that can be used in writing the final paper.

#### 1.1 Format Guidelines

Students will format each review paper in the following way:

- No less than 2 pages (but no more than 3 pages), typed
- Times New Roman font, 12 pt
- 1 inch margins, double spaced

### 2 Contents

Students will be assessed on the thoughtfulness of their critical reviews, but it is important to understand what constitutes a “thoughtful” review.

- Begin by briefly summarizing the reading, spend about 1/2 – 3/4 page on this, and no more. Do not let the entire review tell me what the author said. But I do want to know what you've taken from the reading. Finish this portion by writing something about what you will be arguing at the end of the paper. For example, “While this reading presents a sound argument, I find it reasonable to argue that...”

- Briefly discuss the main hypotheses and findings that the author presents to the reader. Again, spend no more than 1/2 – 3/4 page. Doing this will help you find the important material in the readings, and will help you understand what constitutes a testable hypothesis.
- Evaluate the reading with respect to what you have learned and read for this course (and any other international relations course if applicable). Spend the remainder of the paper on this part. Evaluating the reading will help you develop a theoretical argument.
- Lastly, because you will be evaluating readings, you will be expected to cite when necessary. **In-text citations** and a **reference section** are required (see below for a guideline for citations).

### 3 Grading

Students will be graded on the following criteria, out of 10 points (note, I will give half points, e.g. 2.5 points):

Criteria	Points
Brief summary of reading(s)	3
Discuss hypotheses and findings	2
Critical evaluation	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

Note the weight given to critical evaluation. Your evaluation of the merit of the reading(s) you are writing about is the most important component of the review paper.

### 4 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):

#### 4.1 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* 49:379–414.
- 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: Princeton University Press.