

HS1 International Relations

Essay Assignment

Instructions:

Students are to write a pithy 500-600 word critical assessment of the theory of realism. For one month students have been exposed to one of the most, if not the most, popular paradigm in international relations. However, its popularity does not mean it is necessarily the best explanation for state behavior and interaction. Students should use these questions as guidelines for their essays:

- 1.) Do you think International Relations is primarily a power game between states? In other words, do you agree with the fundamental tenants of realism?

- 2.) Choose one current event from the news (examples: Russia-Ukraine crisis, War in Syria, Rise of ISIS, recent Iran – US diplomatic relations, recent US – Cuba diplomatic relations, etc.) to exemplify your position. Make sure you write how this even directly contradicts or supports the assumptions of realism. Do not just summarize the event.

Format:

All essays must be double spaced with 12 Point Times New Roman Font with margins set the left side of the page. All citations and references must follow the American Psychological Association format – failure to do so will result in penalties for each format error. Any missing citations or references will result in a much more serious penalty even if it was accidental.

Grading:

Students will be graded based on the following criteria:

- ➔ Grammar – 5%
- ➔ Paragraph structure – 5%
- ➔ Thesis statement – 10%
- ➔ Word Choice/Objective language (avoid terms like “evil” or “blessing”, etc) 10%
- ➔ Argument Development – flow of the essay (10%)
- ➔ Analysis of Realism using a Case Study (60%)

Due Date:

May 22nd, 2015.

Mr. Mesaros