

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Paper 1: Explaining and predicting why countries do what they do international affairs

**THIS PAPER IS OPTIONAL. If you choose to submit it, the grade will replace 50% of your exam score for this course unit.**

**Due date: Friday, February 14.** If you have a conflict that will prevent you from turning the paper in by its due date, you must let me know at least 48 hours in advance to determine if an extension is appropriate. Late work will be accepted; however, I will apply a five percent deduction per day, starting the same day the work was due. This penalty will double in cases where a student has not promptly notified me that they have missed a due date, explained why work is tardy, and told me when the work will arrive.

**To be considered as having been submitted on time, you must:**

- (1)** Turn a copy of the paper in at the start of class. It needs to be stapled.
- (2)** Email the assignment as a PDF or MS Word or RTF attached document (if you send the document as an e-mail message, in Pages format, or as a link to a cloud server document or drive—such as Google Docs/Drive—the paper will not be accepted until it has been submitted in one of the acceptable formats).
- (3)** Send it to: [msetzler@highpoint.edu](mailto:msetzler@highpoint.edu)
- (4)** Make sure the message's subject line is: PSC2710paper 1

Please respond to the prompt below with an essay that is at least 1,750 words in length (aim for at 5-6 full pages; please don't submit more than eight), excluding the required bibliography. Your essay should be double-spaced, have numbered pages, and use standard page margins and font sizes. Your title section must list the paper's word count. You do not need a separate cover page (just put the required information at the top of the first page)>

Before beginning your essay, *you should review carefully the handouts on the course website addressing paper grading criteria and citation expectations*. The paper's citations and bibliography should carefully follow one three formats most used in the social sciences: University of Chicago, the APA, or the APSA. For your convenience, my website provides a handout with many formatting examples using the APSA style. You need to use page-specific citations so that your instructor can quickly verify your interpretation of cited material.

The primary purpose of this assignment is to assess *your* understanding of and ability to apply the *assigned* materials, including the non-textbook readings. If you do not engage and analyze the relevant readings, it will not be clear that you have closely read them, and you will earn a low paper grade. As such, ***please do not use any outside readings or other sources*** unless you specifically have cleared doing so (i.e., you may not use the internet or unassigned authors to help you write the paper). If you substitute outside readings for the assigned readings, you will earn a failing grade for the content and analysis sections of the paper as it will be unclear that you have reviewed the assigned readings and class materials.

Before you begin to write this paper, you read the syllabus sections on academic integrity and the policies related to using AI resources. You are permitted to use AI ***only*** for editing purposes or to get feedback similar to what you would get if you were working with HPU's writing center. Use prompts like these:

- “Are there places where the writing in this paper where the phrasing could be clearer, more elegant, or more professional. I need to keep my writer's voice and ideas in any suggested revisions. Any examples used in this essay need to reflect my work and original thinking.”
- “Proofread this paper for an academic audience, including my professor. I need to keep my writer's voice and ideas in any suggested revisions. Any examples used in this essay need to reflect my work and original thinking.”
- “My essay's paragraphs should each start off with an effective topic sentence that summarizes the main argument and the material in the paragraph; are their places where I should edit the topic sentence?”
- “Are there ways that the arguments (paragraphs) in this paper should be reordered to make the logic of my argument easier to follow?”
- “Identify any places in the essay where there are logical problems in my arguments or where I should add more/better evidence and examples.”

Notice that each of these examples of prompts are the kind of questions you would work through with a tutor in HPU's writing center rather than asking the tutor to write or rewrite sections of your paper for you. If you get revised copy that distorts your writer's voice or original ideas, tell the AI resource to try again, "keeping my original writer's voice and ideas."

You also must read the handout on citation requirements (follow the "Student Resources" link. Without exception, instances of plagiarism (cases where a student attempts to gain academic credit by submitting an essay in which a significant portion of the writing has been copied, paraphrased without citation, or patch-written from any other author, the internet, or another student) will be reported and punished according to university policy. You may not submit an essay for which you have received or will receive credit in another course.

**Essay Topic:**

The main reason we systematically study international relations is to explain and predict state behavior. Specifically, we want to understand why states do what they do, knowing that their choices have important consequences for their own people as well as other states. Using insights and many specific examples from class and especially your assigned readings, answer the following prompt:

*Based on what you have learned so far, what attributes of the international system, the design of different countries' political systems, and the qualities of specific political leaders best explain how states interact with other states at different times.*

*In your answer, you should give specific examples of country behavior from your readings and also consider the theories of realism, liberalism, and constructivism (keeping in mind that these theories not only make different assumptions and predictions but also differ in how much they emphasize the role that individuals, state-level political institutions, and the nature of the international system play in predicting countries' behavior). You will find it helpful to carefully consult your textbook chapter "Units of Analysis."*