INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Paper 1: Explaining and predicting why countries do what they do in international affairs

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

Due date: Monday, February 16. 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. The 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 hard 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
(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 5-6 full pages; please don't submit more than eight pages), excluding the required bibliography and title section. 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). In the title section, you must also: (1) declare any AI resources that were used for any aspect of your work on the paper, (2) affirm that you read and agreed to the provisions in the online handout on using AI in this class, and (3) briefly and accurately describe exactly what tasks AI resources were used for.

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 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 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.

Before you begin to write this paper, you must also read the syllabus sections on academic integrity and the policies related to using AI resources. You must carefully review the online handout that outlines how AI may and may not be used in this class. **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.** The specific prompts that you should use for this purpose are noted in the online handout on how to use AI resources.

You explicitly may not use AI resources to do any of your paper's research, to generate ideas to include in the essay, to summarize readings, or to aid in the writing of your essay outside of the specifics in the AI-use handout. You may not load any assigned reading into AI for any purpose. If there is any concern about the authenticity of your writing, you will be asked to complete a follow-up assignment in person, where the expectation will be that your explanation of ideas, grasp of reading material, and writing style should be comparable in quality to the paper you have submitted.

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 and the larger international system. 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 factors best predict how different countries behave as they try influence other countries? Your answer should include at least some analysis for each of the major themes we have addressed in class since we first talked about power and its main forms. Do not write on either liberalism or constructivism, as these are topics we will cover in the next course unit.