

Honors International Studies

Why Nations Go To War by John G. Stoessinger, Essay nr.1

Here's the assignment:

Take the themes and theory from the first chapter of the textbook (consider especially the authors observations offered in the chapter's conclusion), and use them in a paper revolving around the topics of chapter 2.

You also must bring in some material from the 'Defining Power' article (from International Harvard Review of summer 2005) to support your paper.

This will be a tough paper to write. View it as an opportunity to challenge yourself and your writing skills. I am intentionally leaving the assignment rather open-ended because there are many different approaches students may chose to write from. You will originate your own thesis statement.

The paper must be at least one-and-a-half complete pages, following the prescribed writing outline (Same as always: single-space the paper, with a break between each paragraph; size-11 font preferred; footnote format; title optional). Also recall the academic writing strategies we're discussed in class.

Recommended: I am willing to do a non-graded cursory proof-read of any paper in the first week since this is assigned, but I will not do it in the final week prior to it being turned in. Also, please don't hesitate to email me at any time (even during vacation or weekends) if you have questions or would like to discuss the direction in which your paper is going.

Honors International Studies

Why Nations Go To War by John G. Stoessinger, Essay nr.2

Here's the assignment:

Write a paper which strives to apply at least eight of Robert McNamara's eleven lessons (from 'The Fog of War' film) to one of the following conflicts/chapters examined by Stoessinger:

Korea (chapter 3)

Vietnam (chapter 4)

Yugoslavia (chapter 5)

India and Pakistan (chapter 6)

You also must bring in some material from the 'Defining Power' article (from International Harvard Review of summer 2005) to support your paper.

Grading: Just citing correct examples in a one- or two-sentence-like manner will be ok for a 'C-' or lower paper, but for an 'A' or 'B' you should make every effort to elaborate/explore precisely how your observation fits into McNamara's reflective lessons. (If you're feeling particularly ambitious, you might choose to illuminate exceptions to McNamara's observations.)

This will be a tough paper to write. To make it easier, I suggest you pay particularly close attention as to how you organize/outline/structure the paper, both in your preparations as well as in the actual writing of the paper itself. View it as an opportunity to challenge yourself and your writing skills. I am intentionally leaving the assignment rather open-ended because there are many different approaches students might take on this.

The paper must be at least two complete pages, following the prescribed writing outline (Same as always: single-space the paper, with a break between each paragraph; size-11 font preferred; footnote format; title optional). Also recall the academic writing strategies we're discussed in class.

Recommended: I am willing to do a non-graded cursory proof-read of any paper in the first week since this is assigned, but I will not do it in the final week prior to it being turned in. Also, please don't hesitate to email me at any time (even during vacation or weekends) if you have questions or would like to discuss the direction in which your paper is going.