

# WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT FOR POS 120

This course is classified as a Writing Intensive Course, which, according to AWC policy, means at least a third of your grade should be based on “revised written discourse” and that the total writing required for the course should be a minimum of 3,000 words (about 12 pages). This means that a large, complex writing assignment must be a central element of the overall course.

Rather than simply assigning one 3,000 word paper and leaving you to your own devices, we will be completing a research paper of only 2,000 final words, but doing so in stages.

## **DUE DATES:**

- 9-9-14** Turn in a half page explanation of what you plan to write your paper on and why that topic interests you.
- 9-30-14** Turn in an annotated bibliography of at least five outside sources you intend to use in writing your paper (an annotated bibliography is a works cited section with a paragraph or two summarizing each of the sources listed)
- 10-14-14** Turn in an outline of how you intend to organize your paper (1-2 pages) including where you intend to use the sources in your annotated bibliography
- 11-25-14** Turn in a 1500 word rough draft of your research paper
- 12-1-14** Turn in a final 2000 word research paper incorporating my feedback/suggestions

I'm open to ANY suggestion for a research topic, so long as it has to do with World Politics (though you need to approve it through me prior to beginning to write). If you'd like further direction, however, here are a couple of possible prompts.

## **PROMPTS:**

Choose one or two policy areas of interest to you and compare US law in those areas to laws in those areas in other nations. Which nation do you feel takes the best approach? Which nation takes the worst? What can you learn by comparing and contrasting the policies of each nation? What would you recommend that the US do to change its policies in these areas, or do you think they should remain as they are?

Choose a historical example of interaction between two or more states (a war, trade agreement, peace negotiations, whatever) and explain what happened AND why you believe it happened. What can we learn from this example of state interaction? What went right? What went wrong?

Why war? It is human nature? The result of bad laws and institutions? Are the factors that lead to war primarily a function of the international system or domestic politics? Be sure to back up your arguments with facts and examples.

**BEST OF LUCK!**