

FINAL ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer **ONE** of the following two questions:

1. What, if anything, do the wars, conflicts and crises that we have studied in this course teach us about how to reduce the likelihood of violent conflicts in the future? When composing your answer, please focus on two questions. First, drawing on the lessons of history, describe what strategies you think the United States and the international community should adopt to further the goals of peace and stability today. Second, does the past teach us anything about why these measures have not been adopted already or, if they have been adopted, why they have not been more successful?

When composing your answer, address one or more of the following specific forms of conflict: great power wars, nuclear conflicts, or civil/ethnic conflicts. Use the historical evidence and theories presented in lectures and readings to support your answer.

2. What, if anything, do the failures and successes of deterrence in the 20th century (before and after the invention of nuclear weapons) teach us about preventing the use of weapons of mass destruction in the future? When composing your answer, focus on two questions. First, what can be done to strengthen deterrence against other states? Second, what can be done to strengthen deterrence against non-state actors such as terrorist groups?

If you believe that deterrence is not an effective way to respond to the threat of weapons of mass destruction, explain why you believe this. Describe what other strategies you think would be more effective.

EXAM RULES:

This is an open book exam. You must not, however, discuss the questions or your answers with others.

Use the theories and historical evidence provided in the readings and lectures to support your answer. No outside research is required.

Your essay should be 10-12 double spaced pages in length (around 3000 to 3500 words) with 1-inch margins on all sides. I recommend using the 12 point times new roman font (the font used on this page).

Your essay is due on **MONDAY, JUNE 10** no later than **1:00 pm** at a location to be arranged by your TA. Late papers will be penalized.

Graduating seniors should clearly indicate this status on the front page of their paper so that grading can be expedited.

Some pointers for writing the paper:

Make sure to answer the question!

Have a clear argument – say exactly what you think and why you think it. Summarize this argument briefly in the first paragraph of your paper.

Do not simply recount historical facts for the sake of giving background or filling space. Instead, use historical facts to support your argument.

You cannot address *all* the competing explanations for your question, but do not ignore major pieces of evidence or explanations discussed in the readings or in lectures that directly contradict your argument.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. You must acknowledge any direct quotations or the close paraphrasing of an author's words.

Include your name and your TA's name on the front page of your paper.

Use a spell checker.

Include page numbers in your essay.

Good luck!