3835 Final Paper

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Political Science 3835: International Relations Theory

3835 Final Paper – First Draft due April 27 – Final Draft due May 13

Background: You are a research assistant at a business or non-profit organization with international interests. The head of your organization is particularly interested in Issue X, and has come to the international relations expert—you—for guidance.

Assignment: Demonstrate to your boss how International Relations theory can help him or her understand Issue X. In a 12-15 page paper, you should

1. Briefly explain the significance of Issue X and why it is a topic of concern within world politics.

2. Discuss how THREE IR theories of your choice contribute to understanding Issue X. You must briefly explain each theoretical perspective and analyze its applicability to your issue.

3. Explain why ONE of these theories is the most useful for understanding Issue X. You should address both the benefits of that theory vis-à-vis your issue, and the weaknesses of the other theoretical approaches.

Guidelines

- The first paragraph must include a thesis statement. Your thesis statement should:
  - Present the specific argument that you will support in your paper, and the reasoning behind your argument (i.e., the “because” part of your argument).
  - Make clear what your argument is, and provide the reader with some indication of why your argument is persuasive.

- You must refer to the readings assigned for each IR theory and Issue X. This includes readings from the textbook and readings from the course website. Outside sources are unnecessary but permitted.

- Provide an in-text citation such as (Waltz 35) every time you restate or refer to information from the readings. Direct quotes should be placed inside of quotation marks and cited.

- You may incorporate material from previous memos provided that the material is significantly revised in light of teacher and peer comments, and what you have since learned in class. A
paper that is primarily comprised of “cut and pasted” sections from previous memos that have not been significantly revised will not receive a high grade.

- Your tone should be professional—this is your boss, after all—but you should not assume any prior knowledge of IR theory, so be sure to define any new terms.

Details

- Papers should be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins and a 12 point standard font. Include page numbers.
- In the heading, include your name, the date, the course number, and “First Draft” or “Final Draft.” Do not include a separate title page.
- At the end of the paper, include a “Works Cited” section with all of your sources listed in a standard citation format (e.g. MLA, Chicago, or Harvard).
- Your first draft should be saved as follow: FirstNameLastNameFirstDraft.doc
- Email your first draft by 5 pm on April 27 to xxx, and your two peer responders.
- Your final paper should be handed in on paper by 5 pm on May 13 to the Department of Political Science office in 1414 Social Science Tower. Please staple together your final draft, your first draft, and the peer response comments on your first draft, in that order. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Evaluation:

The **first draft** is worth twenty points, and will be evaluated on a check/check minus basis. You will receive a check (ten points), a check minus (five points), or a zero each for your draft and your peer response forms.

For example, if you turn in a first draft that fulfills the assignment, but you do not turn in your peer response forms, you will receive one check and one zero, giving you ten out of twenty points. If you turn in a first draft that fulfills the assignment, and peer response forms that do not include comments, you will receive one check and one check minus, giving you fifteen out of twenty points. If you turn in a first draft that fulfills the assignment, and you turn in properly filled out peer response forms, you will receive twenty out of twenty points.

The **final draft** is worth forty points. **Remember to please staple together your final draft, your first draft, and the peer response comments on your first draft,** in that order. Points will be awarded as follows:
Addresses the assignment – 10 points
Quality of revision – 10 points
Clearly stated thesis statement – 5 points
Appropriate use of evidence from the readings – 5 points
Accuracy – 5 points
Clarity – 5 points

Peer Response

- Peer response groups will remain the same. If this is going to pose a problem, please let the instructor know prior to the first draft’s due date.

- Each student is responsible for filling out a peer response form (see attached) addressing first drafts for each member of his or her group. Please mark the appropriate boxes (excellent, O.K., needs work) and include comments.

- Response forms will be due at the beginning of the peer response workshop on April 29. Please make two copies of each form (you can print, photocopy, or hand copy the forms) in order to provide one to each student to whom you respond and one to the instructor.

- Peer response forms regarding your draft must be stapled to the back of your final draft.

Peer Response Form

Responder’s Name:
Author’s Name:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>O.K.</th>
<th>Needs work</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addresses the assignment</td>
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<td>(Explains significance of Issue X, describes 3 theories and shows relation to Issue X, argues why 1 theory is most useful for understanding Issue X)</td>
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| **Thesis statement**  
(Makes clear what the argument is, and why the argument is persuasive) |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| **Evidence from readings**  
(Incorporates, builds upon and cites readings assigned for each IR theory and Issue X) |  |  |
| **Accuracy**  
(Accurately depicts each theory and Issue X) |  |  |
| **Clarity**  
(Arguments are made clearly, paper is organized logically, and writing is easily understandable and free of major errors) |  |  |