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Geopolitics of Outer Space

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Department of Space Studies – School of Aerospace
SPST 570 – Geopolitics of Outer Space
Fall 2023 – Prof. Francisco Del Canto Viterale

Assignment – Reading Critique:

This course uses reading critique as a pedagogical technique for analyzing articles and papers. The main purpose of this assignment is to allow students to learn how to respond critically to source materials, which requires the ability to both summarize and evaluate a presentation of information.

In the space domain, where there are many national, corporate, and group interests, the ability to examine and evaluate different perspectives, identify arguments and positions, and form one's opinion are critical skills.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you practice some of these skills that are essential to your success in your academic and professional life. Critiquing a piece of writing will students to:

- Identify and describe major ideas and theoretical concepts
- Analyze and examine arguments and reasoning
- Interpret the meaning and implications of the author's opinion
- Evaluate and judge the worth and value of the paper

There will be two reading critiques during the semester, each worth 20%. Students will be required to analyze two scholarly articles related to the topics analyzed in the class and submit a writing assignment for each.

- *Reading Critique #1* - Due Date: Friday, October 6th at 5:00 PM CST.
- *Reading Critique #2* – Due Date: Friday, November 17th at 5:00 PM CST.

Students should prepare for these two assignments as follows:

- 1) Select a paper from the list provided by the professor – see table below – and critically read the piece of research.
- 2) Complete a writing assignment (no more than 2 pages) that answers the following questions:
 - a. Identify the main ideas and points of the article.
 - b. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument.
- 3) Go to ChatGPT and ask the same two questions related to the selected paper.
- 4) Write a comparative analysis (no more than 1 page) between your critique and the answers provided by ChatGPT
- 5) Submit your writing assignment via Blackboard by 5:00 PM CST on Friday. Late submissions will be penalized. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour delay. For example, if the assignment is due at 5:00 PM on Friday, and it is turned in at 5:06 on Friday PM, the first 10% will be deducted. Weekends are included in the deduction. Assignments submitted five or more days after the due date may still be turned in but will be deducted 50%.
- 6) Be prepared to introduce and discuss your answers and ideas in class.

Please, see the list of comparative essays below:

| W | Writing Assignments | Due Date | Topics (choose one topic for your assignment) |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 8 | Reading Critique #1 | Friday, October 6 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Allison, G. (2015) “The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?”. The Atlantic -Ludmila V. Pankova, L., Gusarova, L., and Stefanovich, D. (2021) “International Cooperation in Space Activities amid Great Power Competition”, Russia in Global Affairs -Dobos, B. (2020) “Astropolitics: Yes, That is Really a Thing”, Medjunarodni Problemi -Dolman, E. (2012) “New Frontier, Old Realities” Strategic Studies Quarterly -Moltz, J. (2019) “The Changing Dynamics of Twenty-First-Century Space Power”, Journal of Strategic Security -Colucci, L. and Carlson, J. (2021) “Great Power Strategic Competition on Earth and in Space”, Space Force Journal |
| 15 | Reading Critique #2 | Friday, November 17 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sheehan, M. (2013) “‘Did you see that, Grandpa Mao?’ The prestige and propaganda rationales of the Chinese space program”, Space Policy -Papadimitriou et al. (2019) “Perspective on space and security policy, programmes and governance in Europe”, Acta Astronautica -Prasad Nagendra, N. (2016) “Diversification of the Indian space programme in the past decade: Perspectives on implications and challenges”, Space Policy -Shabbir, Z., Sarosh, A., and Nasir, I (2021) “Policy Considerations for Nascent Space Powers”. Space Policy |