Final Research Paper
Due: 11:59 pm, May 8, 2018

Description

The final research paper is designed to allow students to think critically about an issue or concept related to international relations and cybersecurity, and formulate an argument which they would like to explore further. While the paper can expand upon course material and previous assignments, it should also include academic sources, news articles, and other vetted sources that could provide supplementary information about the chosen topic. However, your paper must be entirely original. You cannot directly reuse any piece of your past submissions but you may reuse sources and ideas. The instructor and TAs will be available to discuss potential topics, and students are encouraged to run their topics by the TAs, especially if they have a topic that they are unsure about. The deadline of 11:59 pm on May 9 is final; late papers will not be accepted.

Criteria

- An abstract for your paper submitted to Canvas by April 5 at 11:59pm. Your abstract should clearly state your thesis and summarize your argument in 3-5 sentences. You should include at least 3 sources you plan on using in your final paper. You will receive feedback from the TAs on your abstract by the end of day on April 10.

- 10-12 pages long, double-spaced.

- 1-inch margins, 12 pt. standard font (Times New Roman, Cambria, Arial).

- Strong argument throughout, with an original thesis that incorporates the student's knowledge of the subject and addresses a greater concern.

- Correct citations when referring to texts and other sources — in line citations or footnotes are fine; please use the Chicago Manual of Style format.

- A full bibliography of all sources: this should include all bibliographical information, rather than urls. Any non-academic sources will be judged on their legitimacy and usefulness to the overall argumentation. Feel free to use readings from the course, but cite them!

- Reasonable use of academic sources to justify your argument. You should cite at least 6
sources, but the number should be justified by your arguments.

- Academic language — avoid colloquial or informal language.
- Proper section divisions to help with the flow and argumentation of the paper.

Sources

Because this is a research paper, we would like students to include a variety of sources. Cybersecurity blogs, news media, and national and international governmental and non-governmental reports can be useful assets in formulating arguments with up-to-date information. Academic journals, resource books, and other publications are also useful sources—feel free to access sites such as jstor.org and online journals provided through the Brown University Library. If you need help finding sources, please talk to the TAs or a librarian (depending on what you need help with).

Potential Topics to Consider

These are potential topics; do not feel you need to write on any of these unless you wish to!

- Propose a piece of legislation that addresses some critical issue in cyberspace
- Methods for reducing the level of cybercrime
- Establishing norms of governance on the Internet
- How to mitigate international risk in cyberspace
- Assessment of the risks of catastrophic attacks on critical infrastructure
- Differences in approach to cybersecurity by region (USA vs. Asia, European Union, etc)
- Impact of commercial cyber-espionage on economies
- Are innovation and freedom of expression in direct conflict with each other?
- Infrastructure and security needs in developing economies and regions
- Implications of current events topics for future legislation