Each student will be responsible for reviewing one article published in a major IR journal. A list of the articles eligible to be critically reviewed will be handed out in class.

Here are some links that might help you locate the articles for review:

OhioLink Electronic Journal Center: [http://journals.ohiolink.edu/](http://journals.ohiolink.edu/)
J-Stor: [http://www.jstor.org/](http://www.jstor.org/)
Summon (via COW library): [http://www.wooster.edu/academics/libraries](http://www.wooster.edu/academics/libraries)

Here are some journals to consider as you look for relatively recent articles to review:

- Conflict Management and Peace Science
- Foreign Policy Analysis
- Global Governance
- International Interactions
- International Organization
- International Security
- International Studies Perspectives
- International Studies Quarterly
- International Studies Review
- Journal of Conflict Resolution
- Journal of Peace Research
- World Politics

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENT
You will be graded upon how well you convey the main theoretical arguments of the author(s), and how well you critically review the article. See the next section ("Writing a Critical Review of an Academic Article") for guidelines as to how to write an effective article review. Examples of critical reviews (although these are book reviews) can be found in many academic journals, most notably International Studies Review (ISR). ISR often runs reviews of key books in the field in their BOOK REVIEWS section of the journal. Electronic versions of ISR can be accessed via OhioLink, [http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/journal.cgi?issn=15219488](http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/journal.cgi?issn=15219488)

LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT
Each student should prepare an article review NO LONGER than 750 words (about 3 pages). I will treat each paper as if it were submitted to a journal as a book review -- if it does not meet these guidelines, it will be rejected!

WRITING A CRITICAL REVIEW OF AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE
When you write an article review, or any other critical review of a text, you are expected to analyze and evaluate, not just summarize. A summary merely reports what the text said. A critique, on the other hand, analyzes, interprets, and evaluates the text, answering the questions how? why? how well? A critique does not necessarily have to criticize the piece in a negative sense. Your reaction to the text may be largely positive, negative, or a combination of the two. It is important to explain why you respond to the text in a certain way.
Step 1. Analyze the text
As you read the article you plan to critique, the following questions will help you analyze the text. (NOTE: You may find it useful to make notes about the text based on these questions as you read.)

- What is the author's main point or research question?
- What theoretical arguments does the author employ?
- What is the author's hypothesis?
- What evidence does the author present to support his/her arguments?
- What are the underlying assumptions?

Step 2. Evaluate the text
After you have read the text, you can begin to evaluate the author's ideas. The following questions provide some ideas to help you evaluate the text:

- Is the argument logical?
- Have important terms or concepts been clearly defined?
- Does there appear to be sufficient evidence for the arguments?
- Do the arguments support the main point?
- Does the text present, refute, or otherwise take into account opposing hypotheses or theoretical arguments?
- Does the text help you understand the subject?
- Does this article make a contribution to our understanding of the phenomenon under examination?
- What are the implications of this article for theory or future research in this area?

Step 3. Plan and write your critique
Write your critique in standard essay form. It is generally best not to follow the author's organization when organizing your analysis, since this approach lends itself to summary rather than analysis. Begin with an introduction that defines the subject of your critique and your point of view. Defend your point of view by raising specific issues or aspects of the argument. Conclude your critique by summarizing your argument and re-emphasizing your opinion.

- You will first need to identify and explain the author's ideas. Include specific passages that support your description of the author's point of view.

- Offer your own opinion. Explain what you think about the argument. Describe several points with which you agree or disagree.

- For each of the points you mention, include specific passages from the text (you may summarize, quote, or paraphrase) or elsewhere that provide evidence for your point of view.

- Explain how this evidence supports your opinion.

This information is adapted from the following sources:


…OR: Make a case as to why another article works best for your given interests. I must approve any article chosen for this assignment, so don’t wait until the last minute. If an article is not appropriate for the assignment and you have already done the work, that will have been time wasted…