Overview of the Assignment
This paper provides you with an opportunity to explore one particular question of interest, and the way in which authors from different perspectives have approached that question, as well as to develop one's own argument and expectations about the question of interest. Students will choose their topic in consultation with the instructor. This paper is worth 25% of your overall class grade.

Papers should address the nature of the problem/puzzle, discuss and evaluate the theoretical arguments involved, and develop an argument and a testable hypothesis of one's own. An effective literature review motivates your research question by synthesizing what we know about the question (synthesis), pointing out where previous research lacks (evaluation), and also conveying to readers the question's significance and importance (the “so what” question!). It also naturally leads into a clear theoretical argument of one's own, from which one can derive a clear expectation or hypothesis about how the relationship or phenomenon of interest plays out empirically.

Introduction
This brief 1-2 page section is the "hook" to get the reader interested in the rest of your paper. What is your larger research question? Try to answer the inevitable "so what?" question. Make your reader understand why they should care about the question that you are examining. Conclude this section with an "organizational preview". This is not a mystery novel, so let us know what to expect.

Review of the Theoretical and Empirical Literature
Write an 8-12 page literature review of a variety of sources closely related to your research question. Be sure to tell the reader what other people have argued (theoretical foundations) and found (empirical results) regarding your topic. Examine what scholars have concluded in literature related to your question, noting areas of agreement and disagreement in each section. Tell us what's not in the literature and how your approach is going to fill this gap, or build off of, or add to, what we already know.

Your review should accomplish the following:
- Clearly define your research question & motivate it (possibly accomplished here or in the introduction)
- Create synthesis across sources/authors (i.e., thematic organization around ideas, variables, methods, etc.)
- Summarize the state of the literature in terms of consensus (or: conventional wisdom), disagreement, gaps or omissions
- Evaluate the overall state of knowledge
- Discuss any flaws in existing research (e.g., critique current literature)
- Highlight the importance of conclusions your approach might draw
- Cite all sources with in-text citations using APSA style (and include them at the end of your paper in your bibliography, also following APSA style guidelines).

REMEMBER: Do not make this a "book review/article review" section. Try thinking in terms of clustering your writing by ideas, not by authors. Your task is to tell the reader what we know and don’t know about the subject, to organize that knowledge for the reader, and to logically bring us to your argument.

Your Argument and Expectations
Your literature review should naturally flow into a discussion of your theoretical argument, elaborated upon in approximately 1-3 pages, followed by a statement of your hypothesis or expectations. Develop your theoretical argument about your particular phenomenon of interest, either stemming from someone else's theory, or in contrast to an existing theoretical argument. Then develop your more specific, testable and falsifiable hypothesis from your theoretical argument.

Required Specifications
approximately 10-15 pages in length; double-spaced; 12 point font; 1” margins; follow APSA style using in-text citations and for bibliographic entries; MUST be proofread.
PSCI 22700: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
PAPER #2: LITERATURE REVIEW & THEORETICAL ARGUMENT PAPER
due in class on Tuesday, November 22nd, 2018

WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW

What is a Literature Review & Theory Paper?
- identifies dimensions of current work in your field, provides a comprehensive review of the topic.
- seeks to describe, summarize, evaluate, clarify and/or integrate the theories used to understand the phenomenon of interest, and the empirical research done on that question or topic.
- places your project into the context of established work in the field.
- is nearly always a standard chapter (or multiple chapters) of an Independent Study thesis.

How do I start?
- Define your topic or research question.
- Keep in mind that during and after your review of the literature, you will very likely be forced to redefine and revise your original topic and research questions.
- Become familiar with the resources available at your library, and reference material in your field.
  - Learn how to effectively perform a search in a research database to retrieve resources.
  - Spend time with a reference librarian learning to use a research database, building effective search strategies, request materials and other time savers.
- Gather resources, organize them, and evaluate the information you gather.
  - When possible, read the abstracts before requesting or thoroughly reading through materials.
  - Abstracts may tell you enough to make a decision on a document's value and relevance.
  - Use critical thinking skills to evaluate an academic article's or a book's objectives, accuracy, argument, and methodology.
  - Understand that you will collect a lot more information than you will actually include in the review; concentrate on relevancy and quality over quantity.

Tips
1. Survey multiple sources! A variety of authors in a range of studies have examined these questions. If not, similar questions have been addressed, and they might be able to provide insight into your question.
2. Give yourself time to read the material.
3. Don’t summarize articles or books – discuss relevant arguments or findings.
4. Use topic or section headings to help organize your ideas or the ideas of others.
5. Cite authors appropriately, using the APSA Style Manual as your guide.
6. Be organized, set deadlines and try to meet them.
7. Here are some links that might help you locate the articles for review:
   - OhioLink Electronic Journal Center: http://journals.ohiolink.edu/
   - J-Stor: http://www.jstor.org/
   - Summon: http://www.wooster.edu/academics/libraries
   - Google Scholar: http://scholar.google.com/

Other Resources