ASSIGNMENT #1:  
BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE (“LITERATURE REVIEW”) PAPER ON A POLICY-RELEVANT ISSUE

NOTES: Each student is responsible for one short (3-6 page) background knowledge paper over the course of the semester. Each opportunity to write background or “literature review” papers will be associated with a set of in-class discussions about a theme or policy problem or issue. Students will be the primary instigators of discussion and debate over these issues during the associated class session. The background knowledge paper is due at the beginning of the class session with which it is associated.

TASK: You have been asked to prepare a background knowledge paper that summarizes what the research in the academic community tells us about ONE of the policy-relevant questions (due date in parentheses) listed below. A background paper addresses what we (as an academic community) “know” about a specific question of interest. Students will be assigned a policy-relevant question of interest, and be given leads as to two sources of academic research that address that question. Students can then review what we know about that topic via those two papers, and will also branch out to include one or two more academic sources.

Each paper should identify the question of interest, identify the possible answers that have been examined in current research, evaluate what we know about the question, and using that knowledge suggest (and explain) the best policy options available when faced with these situations.

Be sure to cite all sources and include a bibliography, using the APSA Style Manual as your guide.

What is the impact the media on foreign policy? (Sept. 7) - Devin Zagar
3. ?

What is the impact of public opinion on foreign policy? (Sept. 7) - Natsumi Miki
3. ?

What causes refugee flows and mass migration? (Sept. 19)? - Masani Francis, Emmy Todd
3. ?

When is diplomacy by third party mediators effective? (Sept. 24) - Yota Kurazono
3. ?
Are economic sanctions effective? (Sept. 24) - Tony Jin
3. ?

What causes arms races between countries? (Sept. 28) - Libbie Depastino
3. ?

Why do people fight in civil wars? (Oct. 5) - Spencer Gaiisch, Shivam K C
3. ?

How do civil wars end? (Oct. 5) - Jacob Price
3. ?

Why do states slaughter their own people? (Oct. 5) - Mia Eschinger
3. ?

What factors lead to state failure? (Oct. 5) - Alex Fiander
3. ?

Does terrorism work? (Oct. 15) - Nick Mattson, Wyatt Shafer
3. ?

When do countries respond to terrorism with torture? (Oct. 17) - Kate Murphy, Tabitha Skornik-Hayes
3. ?

Does trade lead to more conflict or cooperation? (Oct. 24) - David Roney
3. ?

How does increased trade affect human rights? (Oct. 24) - Hannah Groetsch
3. ?
How does foreign direct investment affect economic development? (Oct. 31)  - Mahi Lal, Lynne Santos
3. Is foreign aid allocation determined by recipient need or donor interest? (Nov. 9) - Laura Barnhill, Liam Dingle
3. Does aid lead to economic growth or development? (Nov. 9) - Robert Agle, Annays Yacaman
3. Is the International Criminal Court effective? (Nov. 12) - Gillian Hansel
3. Are human rights treaties effective? (Nov. 12) - Kat Tackett
3. Does peacekeeping work? (Nov. 14) - Ned Manoli, Vince Noonan
3. Do NGOs lead countries to change their human rights behavior? (Nov. 19) - Makayla Miller
3. How has climate change affected conflict? (Dec. 5) - Aditi Sringeri