

Term Paper Prospectus

Provide a 2-page (double-spaced) statement of your chosen research topic, plus a list of sources you have consulted so far. I want to see that you have made an initial foray into the topic and determined that it is viable as a term project. This means establishing that the question is of interest—to you, and to readers like me—and that there are sufficient research materials available (books, articles, documents, etc.) for you to examine the question at greater length and to explore possible answers. This may also mean that you will want to read, ahead of schedule, some of the assigned items on the syllabus. The prospectus is due on Friday, 23 January.

Research topics should not be too broad or too abstract and theoretical. Your topic may engage, at some level, national security concepts or theories—deterrence, terrorism, collective security, etc. But your research should concentrate on a concrete event or case (e.g., U.S. counter-insurgency operations in Iraq or Afghanistan), a national security debate or controversy (e.g., the Patriot Act and civil liberties), or the workings of the national security establishment or policymaking process (e.g., Department of Homeland Security). The empirical focus of your paper may be either historical or contemporary.

Undergraduates: If you intend to write a term paper instead of taking the final exam, you must submit this term paper prospectus by the due date. You will be permitted to change your mind and take the final exam if the paper project is not going as well as you would like. If you do not submit a prospectus, however, you are precommitting to the final exam; you will not be permitted to change your mind and write a term paper. *Graduates:* The final exam is not an option; you must submit a term paper prospectus.