

Guidelines for the Book Review

Undergraduate essays should be 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced (that's 1,500-1,800 words); graduate essays, 7-8 pages (2,100-2,400 words). You are to critically review the book, not simply summarize it. After a brief overview of the book's main message (1-2 pages), focus on an issue (or two or three) that most interests you, or provokes you, and evaluate the author's argument.

You should quote the author. This will demonstrate your familiarity with the book and its arguments. For lengthy quotes, indent and single space. For all quotes, use parenthetical page references—no “ibids” or “op cit” (I'll know what book you're referring to). You may discuss and cite other work, but you need not. If you do, keep this discussion very brief; your primary focus throughout the essay should be the book under review.

Some good examples of book reviews can be found on the Books page of the *New York Times* website: <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/>. Your review should be somewhat more scholarly than one written for a general audience; that is, you will want to pay some attention to relevant concepts and theories from the academic discipline of world politics as covered in this course to date.

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*Reviews of **The Post-American World** are due on 6 November.*

*Reviews of **Hot, Flat, and Crowded** are due on 4 December.*