**Essay topic: Create a forecast for relations with Asia over the next 10 years and the aims of American Foreign Policy in China, presenting your recommendations for same.**

**General Requirements for Essay：**

An essay is required weekly. Be objective and make a careful argument that is crafted at least as well as a **5-Paragraph Essay** in **Plain English**. (See below.)

The 5-paragraph essay is an important archetype for a short paper. It is perhaps too much for a discussion question response, but then again, it’s likely to earn maximum credit.

**Paragraph 1**: **Introduction** – Grab the reader’s attention! Explain your thesis. Tell the reader what 3 things you are going to report, which is essentially a brief outline of paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. The last sentence must present a transitional sentence that moves the reader’s attention and understanding to Paragraph 2.

**Paragraph 2**: **First paragraph of the Body of the Essay** – Present your strongest argument in the first sentence of the Body. This may be a significant example, an illustration, a demonstration of how important this point is, something truly clever, and so forth. The first sentence should pick up where the last sentence of Paragraph 1 ends, semantically not syntactically. The topic sentence should be either the first or second sentence. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional sentence to link to Paragraph 3.

**Paragraph 3: Second paragraph of the Body of the Essay** – This second paragraph of the Body should contain the second strongest argument or second most significant example. Again, the first sentence should link to the last sentence of the prior paragraph. The last sentence of this paragraph should include a transitional link to Paragraph 4.

**Paragraph 4: Third paragraph of the Body of the Essay** – The third paragraph of the Body should contain the weakest argument, example, or illustration. The first sentence of this paragraph should tie to last sentence of Paragraph 3. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional concluding sentence that signals that this is the final major point being made.

**Paragraph 5: Conclusion** – The concluding paragraph must do more than say “That’s all folks!” Restate the thesis, perhaps using some of the original phrases from Paragraph 1. Allude to Paragraphs 1-4, but do not be repetitious. Summarize the three points presented in Paragraphs 2-4 and critique their persuasiveness. Admit any limitations and offer ideas for additional research. Conclude the paragraph with a powerful statement of your findings or final evaluation of the material the material you have covered. For a persuasive 5-paragraph essay, this final declaration may be a “call to action.”

Use APA formatting, double-spaced using **12pt font** with **1-inch margins** on all 4 sides. An abstract is **not** required and will not be graded. Each essay should be about **1,250 words**, plus or minus 10%, not counting references. Using Times New Roman font, 1,250 words is roughly 5 double-spaced pages of narrative, not counting the cover or the references.

Each essay is to be supported by complete **APA-format** in-text citations aligned with the course materials plus additional authentic **scholarly** citations. Neither trade press nor Wikipedia nor any other encyclopedia qualifies as scholarly. Include appropriate figures, tables, and graphics to illustrate key points. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; err on the side of giving too many citations. All citations are to be presented in-text and given completely (author, year, page #) in the narrative using APA format. Extensive quotes (more than 3 lines) are to limited and must be indented.

**Plain English:**

Plain English (also known as Plain Language) is a requirement for this course to ensure clarity of expression and ease of understanding one another. In essence, it is the use of common everyday words, not jargon; limited use of technical terms and avoids acronyms, except as necessary (Challenge yourself as to the necessity of each: If you do not reuse it, do not define it!); the active voice with very few passive sentences; and short declarative sentences to the greatest extent feasible. Of course, this paragraph –as short as it is– was not written using Plain English!

Rewritten in Plain English it becomes:

This course requires written assignments to be in plain English. The main features of plain English include:

* Use common words, not jargon.
* Use technical terms only if necessary.
* Define and use acronyms only if necessary.
* Use the active voice, not passive.
* Use short declarative sentences.

**Textbook:**

Jentleson, B. (2014). *American foreign policy: the dynamics of choice in the 21st Century* (5e). NY: Norton. ISBN 978-0-393-91943-1 (paperback; eBook available).

**Additional Resources:**

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association® (7e). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433805615.