**Case Study (20%)**

**The Syrian Civil War (2011 – present): Case Study of a Globalized Conflict**

**What is required?**

You will be doing an analytic case study of the Syrian Civil War (2011-present). You will write a 3 to 5-page double spaced case study using the Learning Materials, Suggested Resources (below) and other reputable sources from the internet (newspapers, magazines). Use APA format for referencing.

Case studies are designed to help you link a ‘real life’ example to the bigger picture’ (a theory or a broad trend). In this case, you will examine how aspects of globalization play into the Syrian conflict. *Your case study must address the issues and questions outlined below in the “Structure of the Paper.”*

**Structure of the Paper:**

1. *Case Background* (20% of grade)

* Brief discussion of Syria’s history since independence (1-2 paragraphs)
* Explain why and how the Syrian conflict began as well as the global implications of this war

1. *Analysis of the Issues, Contributing factors, and Immediate Causes* (25% of grade)

* Elaborate on each of these aspects below:
  1. Issues (i.e. Arab Spring & demands for democracy)
  2. Contributing factors (i.e. economic inequality, ethnic/sectarian divide, environmental decline)
  3. Immediate causes (i.e. state’s violent response to protests and the resultant popular uprising)

1. *Global Implications of the Syrian Conflict* (25% of grade)
   1. How has the world responded to the Syrian refugee crisis? You might want to consider the follow issues:
   * Syrian refugee crisis and questions of hospitality and solidarity with millions displaced by the war
   * 2015 mass migration through Europe (largest since World War II) as a humanitarian crisis
   * Angela Merkel’s “welcome culture” & Germany’s acceptance of 1.5 million refugees
   * Closure of European Union borders and emergence of “fortress Europe”
   1. How has the international community responded to violations of international human rights law? You might want to consider the follow issues:
   * Indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas (i.e. in Homs and Aleppo)
   * Use of chemical weapons
2. *Conclusion* (20% of grade)

* (Re-state) Explain why and how the Syrian conflict began as well as the global implications of this war
* Remember to summarize key points and don’t introduce new ideas!

1. *References List:* Use APA format (10% of grade)

**Weaving in Relevant Concepts or Facts or Histories from the Course**

What are some relevant concepts or facts in the Steger, Ellwood, Learning Materials or Suggested Resources which can support your explanation of why and how the Syrian conflict began as well as the global implications of this war? Some ideas to ponder: neoliberal economic policies, climate change, the small arms trade, proxy wars between great powers, and regional destabilization of the Iraq War.

**Suggested Resources:**

*(Viewer/reader discretion: you may encounter disturbing images or accounts of the war in Syria. You are advised to discontinue reading or watching anything which may cause upset.)*

**Background Information**

Al-Jazeera (2017), Syria: The Roots of Tyranny

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-yiwmWw48g>

Al-Jazeera (2017), The Boy who started the Syrian War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njKuK3tw8PQ>

BBC (2018), Syria – The Story of the Conflict, BBC News Online

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>

Guardian (2018), Syria (Collection of articles)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/syria>

**Regional Context**

# Black (2016), Iraq war still casts a long shadow over a dangerous and deeply unstable region, *Guardian*

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/07/iraq-war-still-casts-a-long-shadow-over-a-dangerous-and-deeply-unstable-region>

# Muir (2016), Sykes-Picot: The map that spawned a century of resentment, *BBC News Online*

# <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36300224>

# Proxy Wars/Globalization of Conflict

# AbuKhalil (2014), The 8 Proxy Wars Going On in Syria Right Now, *HuffPost*

# <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/asad-abukhalil/syria-proxy-wars_b_5874488.html>

# Byman (2018), Why engage in proxy war? A state’s perspective, *Brookings Institution*

# <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/05/21/why-engage-in-proxy-war-a-states-perspective/>

# Malcomson (2015), Does globalization cause war? *HuffPost*

# <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-malcomson/globalization-cause-war_b_6548864.html>

# Time Magazine (2018), These 5 Proxy Battles Are Making Syria's Civil War Increasingly Complicated

# <http://time.com/5162409/syria-civil-war-proxy-battles/>

# Tisdall (2018), The epic failure of our age: how the west let down Syria, *Guardian*

# <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/10/epic-failure-of-our-age-how-west-failed-syria>

**Climate Change**

The Conversation (2017), Is Syria really a ‘climate war’? We examined the links between drought, migration and conflict

<http://theconversation.com/is-syria-really-a-climate-war-we-examined-the-links-between-drought-migration-and-conflict-80110>

Friedman (2017), Climate Wars – Syria

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i31v1z--3Z8>

**Syrian Refugee Crisis**

# Al-Jazeera/ Bauman (2016), Why the world fears refugees (Narrated by Zygmunt Bauman)

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Qlv8pqtTss>

# BBC (2015), Migration to Europe - why now? BBC News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cScllA3cpL0>

# BBC (2015), Germany faces 1.5 million asylum claims this year – report

# <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34442121>

# Channel 4 (2015), Fortress Europe: behind the worst refugee crisis since WWII

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2W0AlesmGA>

# Connolly (2017), Two years on, has Angela Merkel's welcome culture worked in Germany? *The Guardian*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/30/two-years-on-has-angela-merkels-welcome-culture-worked-in-germany>

# Guardian (2014), Syrian refugee crisis: 'we left one war for another'

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWWJfBt4szg>

# Kurzgesagt (2015), The European Refugee Crisis and Syria Explained

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w>

# UNHCR (2014), 3 Million Reasons Why Your Heart Will Break In One Video

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIolTbJ_K5U>

UNHCR (2018), Syrian Refugees Data Portal

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>

UNHCR (2018), Syria emergency

<http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>