Introduction to International Relations

Homework Assignment #2: The Realisms
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The purpose of this assignment is to determine how much of the material from the class (including in-class discussions, out-of-class events, and readings) you have seriously considered. As such, use the question to demonstrate your mastery of the material.

Caveat: The easiest way to fail this course is to fail to cite and reference the sources you use to provide information. Since you will be using sources other than the text, you will need a reference list—properly formatted. (Yes, if you use the text, you must cite and reference it.) The reference list will be a separate page. Before you hand this in, have someone proofread it. Poor grammar, spelling, and presentation will lower your grade. Maybe you should review the rules on using commas and other punctuation. Maybe you should review the course style sheet, as well.

Question

Throughout the entire textbook, Nau unites the many realist theories into one perspective he calls Realism. There are benefits and drawbacks to doing this. He does similar things with the Liberalism and the Identity perspectives. One of the benefits is that we are able to focus on the core of the theory. One of the drawbacks is that the theories are over-simplified. This writing assignment seeks to fix this drawback.

In a well-organized essay, expand the Realist perspective into its five constituent theories. Explain each theory. Clarify the differences between the theories. Use examples to demonstrate the explanatory power of each theory. Those four constituent theories are classical realism, neoclassical realism, liberal realism, and structural realism (neo-realism).

Length: This should be as long as it needs to be for you to do a good job of the question. However, I would expect the answer to be no less than five pages long.

Final Notes

Notice that I say 'section' and not 'paragraph.' Paragraph appropriately and label each of the sections appropriately. The main section headings should be base font and size, but **bolded** and on its own line (like the one labeling this section). The sub-section headings should be base font and size, but *italicized* and on its own line. Introductions do not get a heading (or sub-heading); the conclusions do. Furthermore, the first sub-section beneath a section does not get a heading; it is considered an introduction.

More Final Notes

Do **not** print this assignment. Email it to me as an attachment, either in .doc or in .rtf format. I will convert it to .pdf format. The second part of this assignment will have some of your fellow classmates evaluate your paper (and you theirs). I, too, will be evaluating your paper. I will explain more on that when the time comes.

Outline to Follow

I. Introduction (The Realist Perspective)

   Definition of Realist Perspective

   a. Explanation of this perspective

   b. Why using perspectives may not be optimal

   c. A brief overview of the four constituent theories

II. Classical Realism

   Transition paragraph

   a. Definition of Classical Realism

   b. Explanation of Classical Realism

   c. Event (with Classical Realist explanation)

III. Liberal Realism

   Transition paragraph

   a. Definition of Liberal Realism

   b. Explanation of Liberal Realism

   c. Event (with Liberal Realist explanation)

IV. Structural Realism

   Transition paragraph

   a. Definition of Structural Realism

   b. Explanation of Structural Realism

   c. Event (with Structural Realist explanation)

V. Neoclassical Realism

   Transition paragraph

   a. Definition of Neoclassical Realism

   b. Explanation of Neoclassical Realism

   c. Event (with Neoclassical Realist explanation)

VI. Conclusion

   Reflect the Introduction

Again, remember that you do not give a heading to any introduction. Also remember (know) that each major section (except for the Introduction and the Conclusion) should have a transition paragraph between it and the previous major section. These transition paragraphs should be about four lines long and should tie the current section into the previous.

Also, in the interest of broadening your repertoire beyond *Wikipedia*, I now require you to use at least five non-Internet sources in this paper. Of course, more is acceptable.

Finally, late papers will incur a 50% reduction in points earned.