



INSS 1302: Assignments and Evaluation

[University of Texas, El Paso](https://www.utep.edu)

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Assignments and Evaluation

Discussion: 20%

Students are required to make a minimum of 1 discussion post and 2 replies in the designated discussion forums per Module. There are 2 modules per week.

NOTE: Replies must be substantive. Simply writing that someone wrote a great post or that you agree completely isn't enough to receive credit. Remember this is a conversation. Engage, ask questions, probe more deeply.

Reading Journals: 15%

Each student will be required to maintain a reading journal capturing the lessons learned from each article and video in the course modules. The journal will be graded at the end of each week and count at the end of the semester as a test grade. The format will be posted.

Essays: 45% (3 x 15%)

Students will be required to write a short essay, due in Weeks 2, 4, 5, related to the themes assigned in the Course Assignments portion of the website. All instructions for the essays are available there. Essays are due Sunday night at 11:59pm El Paso time at the end of the designated weeks.

Final Exam: 20%

The exam will aim to test a broad knowledge of geography, and test your ability to draw together themes and patterns from the course material.

All late assignments will be penalized 3% per CALENDAR DAY unless individual permission for extensions has been arranged PRIOR to the due date. Extensions will NOT be granted except in special circumstances. If you think you will need an extension, please speak to me ASAP. Grades will be given numerically according to the UTEP grading scale.

Essay Questions

For each of the 3 essays due in this class I would like you to find a recent news story related to the topics below. Analyze the story and discuss the security aspect of it – how does the issue in the story affect American (or anyone else's) security? Why/how is it a problem? What solutions (if any) are being discussed here?

- News story or series of stories **must** be from a major network or news outlet (cable news websites, network news, foreign news sources like Al Jazeera or the BBC, daily newspapers from major cities – the New York *Times* or the Washington *Post* for example)
- Stories should be recent: within the last year or so
- All sources should be cited including the original story
- Essays should be approximately 2-3 pages in length (though this is a guideline, not a requirement)
- You will be evaluated on how well you analyze the news story and evaluate the security concerns related to it

Essay 1 (Week 2):

How do Geography and Demography empower Nations?

Essay 2 (Week 4):

Does Geography propagate Terrorism?

Essay 3 (Week 5):

How is China projecting power?

Essay Instructions

- Essays should be double spaced, typed, normal sized font
- Essays should be approximately 3 pages in length
- Essays should be carefully thought out, well organized, and coherent. Remember that you're answering a question, or arguing a point of view. It is important to be clear.

- Outside research is not required, but welcomed and encouraged.
- Please make sure that all sources used, and all ideas you get from elsewhere, are acknowledged as footnotes/endnotes or using parenthetical references. Use the APA style guide.
- If you have questions, concerns, problems with a deadline, or any other issue that might prevent you from doing this work on time and to the best of your ability, contact me immediately!

Academic Honesty

As a UTEP student, you are expected to demonstrate academic integrity. In particular, you must properly identify and provide references for all material that you quote or paraphrase.

Cheating, plagiarism and collusion are all violations of the [UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action.