

# Small States and IR Theory (Part 2)

**Steve L. Monroe**

YSS4274

How do small states behave in the international arena? What makes their behaviour distinct from larger states?

# Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- How To: Research Paper
- Reading Presentation: Thucydides vs. Kissinger
- IR Theory and Small States (Part 2)

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- IR Theory and Small States (Part 2) (**Goh; Walt**)

# Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 How To: Research Paper
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- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos

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# Happy Ramadan!

Will try to get to them to you by tonight!



# Mid-Semester Feedback: Writing Feedback

- Students can send me **one** rough draft of their research paper by Tuesday, April 23rd

# Syllabus Update: (Version 4)

- Chapter 3, Long: Moved to Monday!

# Research Paper: Due April 30th

- Independent academic research about one (or many) small states
- Can use secondary sources
- Word Count: 6000
- Students are encouraged to discuss their paper with Prof. Monroe

# Wanted: Content for Small States Website

- Interested in writing? Honing research skills? Sharing your insights on small states?
- Consider contributing a blog post to the Small States in Peace and War Research Forum
- This would have no bearing on your grade. This is an opportunity to get research experience.
- Contact Prof. Monroe if you are interested!

# Check In: Thucydides, Lithuania and China

Global Affairs

## *Lithuania v China - a David and Goliath battle over weaponisation of trade*

The sheer force of China's response against the tiny European country raises the stakes for the EU as it contemplates a proposed 'sanctions hammer' measure against economic coercion



**Jonathan Eyal**  
Global Affairs Correspondent

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# Research Paper: Due April 30th

- Independent academic research about one (or many) small states
- Can use secondary sources
- Can count for capstone
- Word Count: 6000 (including works cited)
- See Rubric on Canvas

# Research Paper: Rubric on Canvas

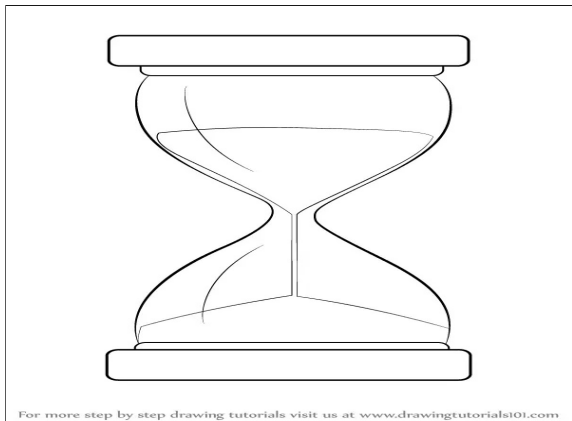
- Research Paper Folder
- Two examples from last year (comments, rubric)
- See rubric



# Research Paper: Checklist

- Introduction
- Research Question
- Lit Review
- Research Design and Analysis
- Conclusion

# Research Paper Structure



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# Research Paper: Introduction

- Should motivate the reader (hook!)
- Research Question
- Research Argument
- Overview of Paper
- No more than two paragraphs

# Research Papers Are Not an M. Night Shyamalan Movie



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# Research Question

- Has to be a question (with a “?” at the end of it).
- Has to be about small state(s) and a theme discussed in class.
- Be ambitious. Think “big.” Concepts > Names. This will help with the lit review.
- Tip: Good questions are subjective, but it’s a good sign if you do not know the answer to the question when you start the research project.
- Tip (2): Questions evolve with research. Research is iterative!
- Tip (3): Good questions are often about relationships between factors (variables). These types of questions usually have a “How” or “Why” at the beginning.

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# Lit Review

- What have others said about your topic and/or question?
- 80 percent summary. 20 percent critical analysis (gaps, strong assumptions, flawed arguments).
- Bucket different themes, arguments, or methods in the existing literature into separate paragraphs.
- Most citations are from peer-reviewed sources. These are sources from academic journals (journals reviewed by academics).

How do you know if a source is from an academic journal?

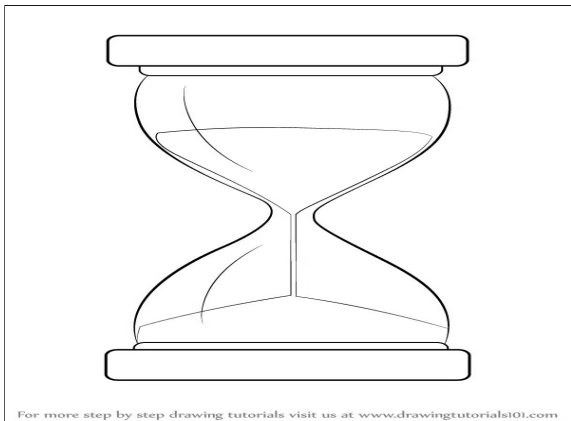
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# Research Paper Structure





# Research Design and Analysis

- Independent research means you need to do research (this is more than a lit review).
- Independent research requires a research design.
  - ▶ Case Studies (most similar, within case, most different)
  - ▶ Surveys
  - ▶ Ethnography
  - ▶ Large-n statistical analysis
- Choose the research design that can best answer your research question!
- Need to explain to the reader (me) why you chose your research design.
- However, remember that you are operating under time constraints.

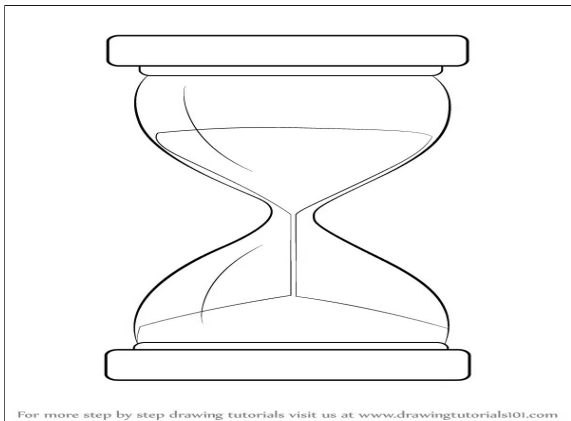
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# Research Paper Structure



# Conclusion

- Conclusions are like reverse introductions
  - ▶ Overview of paper
  - ▶ Restate argument
  - ▶ End with an answer to “so what”? Why is this important?  
What are implications of your argument?

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# Research Paper

Good luck!

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“Thucydides or Kissinger? A critical review of smaller state diplomacy,” by Baldacchino.

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# IR Theory and Small States (Warm Up)

- Last class we discussed that small states have two choices when confronting larger states: bandwagon or balance.
- Why does Goh think this is a false choice? Use examples from ASEAN, the EU or other cases!

# Great Powers and Hierarchical Order in Southeast Asia (Goh 2007)

- Omni-enmeshment: “sustained exchanges and relationships with a state” can redefine and possibly alter a large state’s identity (121).
- Complex balancing (131)

# Great Powers and Hierarchical Order in Southeast Asia (Goh 2007)

- Omni-enmeshment: “sustained exchanges and relationships with a state” can redefine and possibly alter a large state’s identity (121).
- **Complex balancing (131)**

# Great Powers and Hierarchical Order in Southeast Asia (Goh 2007)

“Instead, Southeast Asia is pursuing indirect balancing strategies against China that rely upon sustaining U.S. dominance in the region, and thus aim to maintain the existing imbalance or preponderance of power in favor of the United States (132).”

# Great Powers and Hierarchical Order in Southeast Asia (Goh 2007)

Do you agree with Goh? Has her argument stood the test of time?

# The Curious Case of Small Gulf States



Source: Salon



How have small wealth gulf states survived?

# The Curious Case of Small Gulf States (Walt)

- Super-power backing
- No threatening regional power (Iraq)
- Norms of sovereignty
- Have value added (entrepots, neutral territories)

Which of these explanations are Thucydides? Kissinger?

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# Next Seminar (Mar. 18)

- Small States in International Organizations
  - ▶ Long, Chapter 3 (I promise!)
  - ▶ Small States in the UN (see email)
  - ▶ PM Lee's speech at the Forum of Small States (FOSS)

# Next Seminar (Mar. 18)

- We will go over Long's framework for how small states can be influential in international politics (Chapter 3)
- Case Study: Minister Shanmugam on Small States and the war in Ukraine

Have a great weekend!