Final Examination

This exam consists of one essay that must not exceed 1500 words. The exam is due both electronically and in hard copy format by 1:15pm on Thursday, August 14. Please email your exams to both Alex (ahm@stanford.edu) and Todd (tsechser@stanford.edu). Please bring your hard copies to class on Thursday. (If you will be absent, please email Alex and Todd beforehand.)

The exam is open-book and open-note, but you may not collaborate with any other individual in writing the essays. Violation of this policy will result in a failing grade on the exam. The exam is worth 50% of your final grade in the course.

The best essays will accomplish four tasks:

1. Answer the question directly. Every sentence of your essay should somehow contribute to an explicit and clear answer to the essay question at hand. If it is not clear how a particular part of your essay contributes to this answer, you should explain the relationship. At the end of the essay, the reader should know clearly, concisely, and exactly what your answer was.

2. Demonstrate understanding of the readings. Refer to assigned articles early and often. Show that you have read and absorbed them. You are also encouraged (although not required) to refer to optional or outside literature in your essays.

Footnotes are the preferred means of citing articles and books. If you are unfamiliar with proper footnote format, consult the Chicago Manual of Style.

3. Make a clear argument. This essay is short, so it is essential that you get to the point immediately and explicitly. Make a concise and finite argument in the first paragraph of the essay, and use the remaining space to support it in ways that are clearly stated. Do not ramble. Stick to your point. Essays that defend a few arguments thoroughly are generally superior to those that make several weakly-supported arguments.

4. Demonstrate critical thinking. There is no need for elaborate summaries of the articles; we have already read them. Develop your own arguments. Think creatively and imaginatively about the course material.

Late exams will be penalized one letter grade for each hour (or fraction thereof) that they are late.

Good luck!
How do states win wars?

In your answer, be sure to:

- **Evaluate theoretical claims.** The course has discussed the process of theory-testing and considered a variety of theories. Which of these (or other) theories do you find most compelling? Why? How do these theories perform in light of the criteria we discussed?

- **Cite specific, real-world examples.** You may use examples from the literature on the course syllabus or do your own research.

- **Address alternative viewpoints.** Regardless of the argument you make, there will inevitably be competing views. Address these perspectives and explain why your argument is superior.

- **Adhere to the word limit.** It may be necessary to spend time revising your essay to keep it under 1500 words. This is both expected and essential. Revision will improve your essay and ensure fairness by forcing all students to limit the length of their answers.