

Essay: 50 points
Due 4/23

This assignment is a high level creative thinking exercise. You are asked to use what you have learned about the past to consider problems faced in the world today. This is NOT a research essay. You need not do any research outside of assigned class materials and those supplemental sources listed below. You are welcome to do additional research if you choose to, however you will be graded on your use of course materials.

Step 1: Choose **ONE** of the two essay topic below for your essay.

Step 2: Do all of the assigned readings for the class related to the topic you have chosen. This includes watching all assigned videos.

Step 3: Look at all of the assigned links in this document under the topic you have chosen.

Step 4: Write an essay. An essay organizer is posted on Canvas to help you get started.

Be sure to answer **ALL** of the questions posed in both parts 1 and 2 of the prompts. Also be sure to include examples from the course material whenever asked to do so!

- Typed
- About 5 pages Times New Roman, double spaced, 1" margins
- Must include in-text citations and a works cited page (as the sixth page)
- Must make use of course readings, videos, and lectures
- Avoid long quotes

Step 5: Proof-read your essay. Consider going to the writing center for help with citations if you are not clear about their use. A guide for citations is posted on Canvas for your reference.

Step 6: Turn in a hard copy of the essay in class and upload a copy of the essay into Turnitin on Canvas.

Turnitin.com: Turnitin is an automated system which instructors may use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. In order to comply with privacy laws, students are not required to include personal identifying information, such as name, in the body of the document submitted through Turnitin. I will know it is your submission because it goes through Canvas. Turnitin provides an originality report letting the instructor and the student know how much of the assignment is original and how much is copied from elsewhere. If your originality report is equal to or greater than 10% you will incur a plagiarism penalty. The number of points docked will depend on the severity of the offense.

Essay Topic Choices:

Option 1: Domestication and GMOs

Part 1: How similar is the process of genetically modifying organisms today to the initial domestication of plants and animals? Be sure to consider and explain how each process is performed, the models for why each process occurs, and the outcomes of each process for human societies. Use specific examples.

Part 2: There are over 800 million starving people in the world today. Are genetically modified organisms the solution to this problem? Be sure to address issues like population pressure/carrying capacity, monetary expenses (for whom), monetary gains (for whom), environmental impacts (positive and/or negative), health impacts, and time.

In addition to the course materials, please consider the videos and articles in the links below if you choose this essay topic:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja_N5s1I
- <http://discovermagazine.com/1987/may/02-the-worst-mistake-in-the-history-of-the-human-race>
- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/5604296/Is-farming-the-root-of-all-evil.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH4bi60alZU>

Option 2: Warfare and Human Nature

Part 1: Is warfare human nature? What about human nature suggests that warfare is/is not natural? What things from your readings, videos, and lectures would support your position? Do you think that warfare caused formation of states, or was it the result of state formation? What are some examples from your readings, videos, and lectures to support your position?

Part 2: Warfare is an ongoing concern for many people around the world today. What does archaeology suggest most warfare was about? How could this contribute to reducing warfare today? Be specific.

In addition to the course materials, please consider the videos and articles in the links below if you choose this essay topic:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NIqgS47m5k>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdVLAG_ptQM&t=372s
- <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ancient-brutal-massacre-may-be-earliest-evidence-war-180957884/>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/29/opinion/sunday/are-we-hard-wired-for-war.html>

The Scoring Breakdown:

Content for part 1 of selected topic	20 points
Examples for part 1	5 points
Content for part 2 of selected topic	10 points
Citations and works cited	10 points
Writing quality	5 points