Overview:

Your research project for this course will center on a current, controversial issue in international relations. The project you produce as a result of your research will have two parts:

I. Historical background of the issue (~1.5 pages)
   A. Your historical background will end with a thesis that presents your answer to this question: “what are the central controversies associated with your issue”?

II. A policy overview of the issue where you present 4 different relevant perspectives on your issue (1.5 pages per source)

Project Requirements:
1. Keep track of all of your sources on NoodleTools.
2. Properly cite all sources using Chicago (Advanced) style.
3. You must meet with Ms. Kane at some point during the project.
4. Source requirements:
   a. When you submit your topic, you must submit it alongside at least three “background readings” that led you to choose your topic. These can be from the Oxford Handbook series, or can be newspaper articles about your topic.
   b. For your historical background: 2 books (must be scholarly books about your topic)
   c. For your policy overview: 4 (can be more with approval from Ms. Wales) relevant, credible policy perspectives on your issue. This may include:
      i. White papers
      ii. NGO publications/IGO publications
      iii. Working papers
      iv. Editorial/opinion pieces from reputable newspapers
5. You will need to PRINT and ANNOTATE (write margin notes) all sources you use in your policy overview. You will show these to Ms. Wales during the paper writing process.

Final Portfolio Format:
1. Cover page
2. Historical background ending in thesis
3. Policy overview
4. Works cited

Important Project Due Dates:
April 5th: Topic Due
April 17th: Source list due
April 24th: All policy overview articles must be annotated
May 3rd: Project due
Potential “overarching topics”, within which you could find a narrow topic. There are many more possibilities than those listed here. Remember, you are not writing about the United States’ perspective on these issues; you should be attempting to take a global perspective.

1. Syrian civil war
2. North Korea’s nuclear capabilities
3. The future of the EU/Eurozone
4. The future of the Kurds in Turkey/Syria/Iraq
5. Rise of authoritarianism (in Turkey, in the Philippines, etc.)
6. Global terror groups
7. Israel/Palestine
8. Haiti/The Dominican Republic
9. Persecution of journalists by repressive regimes
10. Human rights
11. Climate change
12. Cyberwarfare (e.g. Russian interference in democratic processes worldwide)
13. Drone warfare
14. Migration crisis
15. Iran’s role in the international community
16. Nuclear weapons in general
17. The role of the UN/ International Criminal Court
18. The legacy of colonialism
19. “New Imperialism” by Russia/China (Ukraine, Spratly Islands)
20. International crime (e.g. drug trafficking/sex trafficking)
21. International trade/globalization

A hint: explore the “world news” section of a newspaper to see what issues are very internationally important right now. It might be interesting for you to look at an English language newspaper from Britain, Australia, etc. to see what international issues dominate their coverage. Your textbook also contains a number of discussions of international issues that we haven’t gotten to yet; feel free to use that to explore as well.