

Political Science 562: Strategy and National Security

**BOUNDED RATIONAL ANALYSIS –
CASE STUDY: ISIL, Summer 2017
Due at the beginning of class 25 September 2017 (5%)**

I expect, and will grade accordingly, that you will comply with the following:

- 1) All written work will be single-spaced with normal default spacing, 1" margins, and of required length or the handwritten equivalent. You will use a font with a size of 11 or 12 and a face such as Times New Roman or the equivalent. Examples of faces you will not use are `courier new` and `O C R`. *Failure to use an appropriate font can cost a 1.0 cut.*
- 2) When you draw from a reading or another source, credit the reading or source with a note in the form – (Bressler, p. 180). *If I find inadequate sourcing, I will assign a cut in accordance with the syllabus.*

You may not collaborate on this task.

It is late summer 2017. You are an ordinary citizen who wants to understand better the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the involvement of the U.S.. You have limited time and access to sources, none of which are classified and all of which are in English. Below are the sources you have selected to study.

My website: My website: Ingram, “When Thinking about Military Intervention”

Wikipedia, “ISIL,” sections on history, beliefs, and goals/strategy

My website: *Brookings*, Pillar, “ISIS in Perspective,” 25 August 2014

My website: *Brookings*, Hein, “The Big Questions on ISIS,” 7 November 2014

My website: *BBC*, “What is ‘Islamic State’?” 29 July 2015

My website: *NYT*, Blanken, “The Islamic State Is Not Dead Yet,” 9 July 2017

My website: *Stratfor*, Stewart, “Down but Not Out,” 20 July 2017

My website: *NYT*, Hubbard and Schmitt, “ISIS, Despite Heavy Losses, Still Inspires Global Attacks,” 8 July 2017

My website: *The Economist*, “No one knows what will replace the so-called caliphate,”
6 July 2017

You may use other sources.

1. **(40) In a one-page essay**, *describe* the situation in the summer of 2017 regarding ISIL: its structure, evolution, and influence in the Middle East and the world.
2. **(30) In a one-page essay**, *discuss* what you believe should be the U.S. interests and goals in this situation and *discuss* the interests and goals of the other primary players. Focus on interests and goals. Your task is not to consider how to achieve the U.S. interests and goals. Also, your task is not to determine U.S. policy options or to recommend a U.S. policy. You may wish to consider a hierarchy of goals.
3. **(30) In a one-page essay**, *describe* the potential causal factors the U.S. must consider in any analysis of its policy. What do you believe are the primary causal factors in this situation that will affect the outcome of any U.S. policy aimed at achieving the goals you have described above? You may wish to consider the relative power and the interest of the primary players.

NOTA BENE: Remember to cite sources and provide a bibliography.