General Education Summit Program - War & Peace Cluster
Fall 2014
Final Paper - Due Wednesday December 16th 2015.

Your responses are due on the Wednesday of finals week, that is December 16th 2015, by noon. Email submissions are the easiest (ian@physics.csustan.edu). If your email document contains symbols (such as $^{235}$U) please send your document as an attachment to your email. Alternatively, I will also accept hard copy submissions brought to the Physics Department Office (N 164).

Introduction

During the first class of the semester I distributed a pretest on nuclear physics. A copy of that is part of this assignment, as a separate document. First take the pretest again, answering the questions as best you can with the knowledge that you have now. (Note: don't expect to be able to answer every question, some have not yet been covered in class.) You should then review that pretest, and make a note of the differences between the answers you gave then and the answers you give now.

Assignment

1. Read the following articles related to nuclear power, and then select one to write about
   1. New York Times - U.S. Supports New Nuclear Reactors in Georgia
   2. France24 - Obama announces first new nuclear power plant in US for 30 years
   4. BBC - Nuclear power: Eight sites identified for future plants
   5. BBC - Iran ready to double enrichment
   6. BBC - Cracks in bricks at core of Hunterston nuclear reactor
   7. BBC - Palomares nuclear crash: US agrees Spanish coast clean-up
   8. BBC - Wild mammals 'have returned' to Chernobyl

2. Write a reflective essay (2-3 pp) on the differences between how you would have reacted to your chosen article in July and how you react to it now.

3 http://www.city-journal.org/html/15_1_nuclear_power.html
4 http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11564152
5 http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20368030
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Guidance

This assignment is more than a question of whether your opinion on the viability of nuclear power and the risks to your health from radiation have changed. It is also (mainly?) about your ability to understand the article. Also, your stance on the issue is immaterial. You can be for nuclear power or against it, or you can keep your own opinions out of your essay if you like. Details are important, so try to focus on one or two points that you would like to write about, and be specific about them.