

POLS3501 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

EXAM 1

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is a take-home exam. This exam consists of seven essay questions. You must answer **five** of the essay questions. Your answers should be complete and carefully considered. Answers do not have a formal page limit, but typical answers are 1 ½ -2 ½ typed, single spaced pages. If you start getting onto the third single spaced page you are probably writing more than you need to. If you have not gotten past one page, your answer is probably too short. Each answer is worth 20 points. (100 total)

All exams must be typed, *single spaced*.

The typesetting and formatting of the paper should be as follows:

- Font: 12 point Times New Roman or Courier New with standard character spacing, leading, etc.
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides (if I have to get out a ruler and measure, you are in trouble)
- Each page should be numbered in the lower right hand corner (although no points will be deducted so long as the pages are clearly numbered)
- All papers should use end notes if any notes are being used

In writing your answers you will be expected to apply the vocabulary we have used thus far in the course and to show clear and direct connections between the ideas you present and the course lectures AND readings. Any quotes from the text should be cited by placing the author's name and page number in parenthesis following the quote. Example: (Mingst, 25)

Works Cited and Bibliography:

There is no need to include a bibliography unless you use sources other than those assigned in the course. There is no need to use texts other than those assigned in the course. Some students may choose to look to sources from outside the class readings. You do so at your own risk. There are many different perspectives on IR and some of the vocabulary and approaches are different from those we are using in this course. Navigating these differences can be tough even for those of us with some training. So use of sources not related to the class may not be a good idea. It is an especially bad idea to go to Wikipedia to get definitions for the ID section. First: Wikipedia is an encyclopedia and you are not in middle school any more. Second: Wikipedia is a user edited site so the definitions can contain errors, or they can be based on a different discipline. If you choose to use an outside source, you must cite it and include it in a works cited section at the end of your exam. All of the standard academic rules on citation, plagiarism, and academic fraud apply to the exam.

General Grading

Answers will be graded on their ability to apply the material from the course lectures and readings to the questions in a way that demonstrates that you both know the information and can think critically about its application to the world. Emphasis will be placed on your ability to connect the key ideas of the course to actual historical events and to combine the two in a clear and concise argument.

Essay answers will be graded on the following criteria:

20 – Perfection! (don't expect many of these) The answer completely addressed all of the things required in the essay flawlessly.

18/19 – A answer. The answer addressed all of the relevant information in the question in a way that clearly demonstrated that the student has a strong understanding of the subject matter. Further the student demonstrated critical thinking skills in the application of the material to the questions. The answer demonstrates a synthesis of the readings and lectures.

16/17 – B Answer. The answer is addressed all of the relevant information in the question in a way that demonstrated that the student understood the material and was able to synthesize the information in the readings and lectures. This answer demonstrates a clear understanding of the material and shows some critical thinking in the application of the information.

14/15 – C Answer. This answer meets the minimum requirements for the question. It answers the question, but it shows only a basic level of critical thinking. While the answer does demonstrate that the student has done the reading and understood the lectures, the presentation is not entirely clear.

12/13 – D Answer. The basic information is correct, but there is no analysis of the information and there is no clear synthesis of readings and lectures. While the basic information may be there, it is not clear that the student understood the material in the manner required for the course.

11 and below – Failing. The information is not correct. The answer is just wrong. The more wrong the answer, the lower the grade. Scores of zero will be given in cases where the answer shows little or no understanding of the information relevant. Answers that fail to answer the question that was asked (no matter how well they express information in the course) will also be given failing scores.

General Information

This is a take-home exam. It is expected that it will be proofread and corrected for basic errors, including basic errors of fact as though it were a paper. Basic errors of fact (such as putting WWI in the wrong century) will be considered to be a demonstration that you do not know the information and your grade will be lowered significantly.

If you wish to discuss your exam before you turn it in, you must come to office hours. Federal privacy rules forbid me to discuss the specifics of your exam over email. This includes not being able to read or comment on emailed copies. Please feel free to bring a working copy of your answer or answers (I will look at whole exams or single answers) to my office hours. If you can't make office hours, we can schedule an appointment. **THE ONLY WAY TO DISCUSS THE EXAM IS IN PERSON.** Also Students should be forewarned that the normal pattern is for students to wait until the last minute to come to office hours. If you wait until the last possible day to come by there may be a line and you may not get a chance to talk to me, or you may have limited time.

All students are reminded of the course policy on violations of the UWG Honor Code. Any cheating no matter how trivial shall result in an F in the course and appropriate charges being filed with the Dean's Office. **DON'T CHEAT.** It's not worth it.

The exam is due **AT THE START OF CLASS** on February 13th, 2008. If you do not turn in the exam during class on the 13th, the exam shall be considered late and points will be deducted. For each business day late, one letter grade shall be deducted (10 points out of 100). Example: an exam turned in on Monday, February 16 is one business days late (Monday) and will have 10 points deducted from the grade. **ONLY HARD COPY EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

ESSAYS – ANSWER FIVE (5) OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Anarchy is a core concept in the study of international relations. What does it mean to say that the international system is anarchic in nature? Is this an accurate vision of international politics?
2. The global governance architecture designed by the US at the end of WWII was designed to prevent world war and economic collapse. Select one of the theoretical approaches we have discussed in this course. From the point of view of that theoretical perspective, evaluate the relative success or failure of the post WWII global governance architecture.
3. Francis Fukuyama argues that we have reached the “end of history” and that the major ideological struggles of the human race are over. Samuel Huntington argues that we live in the age of a “clash of civilizations” and that the struggles of the present day are just beginning.

Using the theoretical perspectives we have studied in class and the historical overview from the start of the course, evaluate these two positions. Briefly outline each of the two men's arguments and then discuss which has the stronger case in the world of today given what we have covered so far in the course.

4. Hans Morgenthau articulates a clear and concise theory of political realism. J. Ann Tickner argues that this theoretical approach unnecessarily privileges a masculine worldview. Compare and contrast the theories of international relations articulated by the two authors. Given the historical overview and the discussion of theory in this course, which author is more persuasive? Defend your conclusion with evidence from the course.
5. Thucydides argues that "right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power, while the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must". This was written more than two thousand years ago and most realists would argue that it still applies. Are we doomed forever to an international relations based only on who is the strongest? Construct an argument that answers this question using the material from the course thus far.
6. Given the legacy of colonialism in the modern world, is it possible for former colonial states to play a major role in shaping international relations? Using the material in the course thus far (theoretical and historical) construct an argument that answers this question. Be sure to carefully construct your argument based on the material from the course.