

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Instructions: Answer one essay from each section. For Section 1, be sure to answer each part of the question for full points. For both essays, please make extensive use of course literature with citations from the readings. The best essays have both a coherent and succinct thesis and lots of relevant citations from the assigned course readings. For Section 2, select one quotation for your essay and be sure to identify its author and explain how the passage fits into the author's general views. Pay careful attention to the underlying assumptions and motivations of the author's prose. Additionally, be sure to explain the broader significance of the quotation within the context of theories of international relations, again with as much direct reference to the literature as possible. *You must cite relevant literature from the course syllabus in order to pass the examination.*

You may type your exam, but only tests written in Microsoft Word format (either .doc or .docx) will be accepted. When finished, please send your completed examination to Mrs. Starr Lee at starr.lee@jhu.edu. Tests with a timestamp later than 12:20PM will not be accepted. Please disable your wireless internet and close all other windows other than your word processing software on your computer.

This is a closed book examination. You may not use any outside resources. Both questions are worth 50% of your midterm grade. Good luck!

Section 1:

- 1) What are the different levels of analysis in international relations theory and why do they matter? Do all three major schools of international relations theory treat each level of analysis the same? How are their treatments similar? How are they different? Is there a coherent consensus on this topic within each school or not? Explain.
- 2) How do the three schools of international relations theory formulate actor preferences? Where do these preferences come from? How do actor preferences relate to state preferences? How might this inform a view of international relations theory? Why does this matter?

Section 2:

- 1) "The conclusion of one hegemonic war is the beginning of another cycle of growth, expansion, and eventual decline. The law of uneven growth continues to redistribute power, thus undermining the status quo established by the last hegemonic struggle. Disequilibrium replaces equilibrium, and the world moves toward a new round of hegemonic conflict. It has always been thus and always will be, until men either destroy themselves or learn to develop an effective mechanism of peaceful change."
- 2) "As the...analysis of German and Japanese security policy has demonstrated, cultural norms and values have evolved in tandem with shifts in behavior, precisely as our model predicts. Over the past fifty years, external events such as the end of the East-West conflict, the Gulf war, or shifts in the balance of power have periodically triggered domestic political debates over national security...Despite profound changes in their external security environments, German and Japanese policy makers have acted in a manner consistent with the core principles of the political-military cultures established by their nations in the 1950s and 1960s."

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- You have to write **THREE** essays - one from each section below (A, B, C). Each essay is worth 33% of your core exam grade.
 - Please take your time to read the questions and think about the answers. A good answer will **have a clear thesis**, will be supported by reference to the literature (this means **you must mention lots of literature** from the course syllabus to potentially pass this exam), and will be **well written**. A cogent and short essay is preferable to a long and incoherent one!
 - **You are not allowed to use books or notes during the exam.** It's just you and the blue book! Good luck!
- If you are writing this exam on your computer, please email it to Starr Lee (starr.lee@jhu.edu) **PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE FINAL PAGE (and not the front!) OF YOUR EXAMINATION TO MAINTAIN YOUR ANONYMITY.**

SECTION A: Please answer one of the two questions:

1. How do neorealism and classical realism differ in their approach to international relations? Why does this matter?
2. How does the deductive formulation of structural realism compare to the methodology of economics, particularly microeconomics? Why does this matter? What does this tell you about structural realism's potential shortcomings?

SECTION B: Please answer one of the two questions:

1. What is the constructivist response to liberalism? What's liberalism's response to constructivism's critique? Why is this relevant?
2. Compare Robert Gilpin's Hegemonic Stability Theory with Charles Doran's Power Cycle Theory. How are they similar? How are they different? Be sure to mention both foreign policy "prestige" and foreign policy "role" in your answer.

SECTION C: Please answer one of the two questions:

1. Various scholars have become transfixed with the notion of "American decline." What do the three major theories say about this? How are they similar? How are they different? Discuss.
2. Use the three schools of international relations to forecast Israel's response to Iran's creation of a nuclear reactor. Explain.

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SECTION A: Please answer one of the two questions:

1. Why do states seek to maximize power according to Classical Realists?
2. How does deterrence work? Explain the concept and its mechanism.

SECTION B: Please answer one of the two questions:

1. Explain how international institutions arise according to Liberal theories. What would a Realist critique of the origins of international institutions be?
2. What is the role of ideas in international relations? How can they influence the behavior of states? Can they overcome the constraints imposed by power?

SECTION C: Please answer one of the two questions:

1. What were the causes of World War I? Explain using two theories of IR.
2. Russia is, according to most metrics, in serious decline (demographically, militarily, economically). On the basis of your vast knowledge of IR theories, what type of behavior can you expect from Russia in the near future?
3. Can we engage in a balance-of-power interactions with non-state groups, such as Al-Qaeda?

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- **You are not allowed to use books or notes during the exam.** It's just you and the blue book or your computer! Good luck!
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SECTION A: *Please answer one of the two questions:*

1. If states always balance against the strongest power, why then hegemony is sometimes possible? Why does "balance of power" fail?
2. In international relations, it is better to be feared than loved. Explain.

SECTION B: *Please answer one of the two questions:*

1. "War is caused by misunderstanding and lack of communication." Please explain and critique this argument.
2. According to constructivists, two states with the same level of power and in the same geopolitical situation may behave very differently because of their identity. Explain.

SECTION C: *Please answer one of the two questions (and use your vast knowledge of IR theory in your answers!):*

1. What were the causes of World War II? Explain using two theories of IR.
2. Why is China developing naval capabilities (seapower)? After all, the seas are "free" and their security and freedom of access have been guaranteed by the US for the past seven decades. Explain.
3. Can we deter non-state groups, such as Al-Qaeda?

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- You have to write **TWO** essays - one from each section below (A and B). Each essay is worth 50% of your mid-term grade.
- Please take your time to read the questions and think about the answers. A good answer will have a clear thesis, will be supported by reference to the literature, and will be well written. A cogent and short essay is preferable to a long and incoherent one!
- You have two hours to complete the exam. **You are not allowed to use books or notes during the exam.** It's just you and the blue book! Good luck!
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SECTION A: (50%)

Please answer one of the two questions:

1. Thucydides says that the strong do "what they can" and that the weak "suffer what they must." What does he mean by this? What does this tell us about the assumptions of classical realism?
2. "States can never trust each other, and therefore conflict is inevitable." Would a Liberal theorist agree?

SECTION B: (50%)

Please answer one of the two questions:

1. Anarchy is dangerous and leads to insecurity. Do Liberals and Constructivists agree?
2. Is spreading democracy abroad a useful means by which democracies can enhance their security? Define and reference democratic peace theory in your answer.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
PAUL H. NITZE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

January 28, 2009

Please choose 2 (two) of the following essays:

1. Discuss the crisis leading to the outbreak of World War I from the perspective of each of the three levels of analysis.
2. Liberalism and international theory. After presenting the intellectual origins of Liberalism, focus on current Liberal theories based on domestic variables.
3. Present, compare and contrast Allison's decision-making models. In addition, show how Allison's models can be applied to formulate competing hypotheses on Israel's recent decision to use military force in Gaza and critically evaluate those hypotheses.

A few hints:

1. *Concentrate on the specific theme you are asked to write about: touching upon a number of other issues for the sake of writing something anyway will not help;*
2. *Include explicit reference to the relevant literature and authors;*
3. *Try not to exceed 3-4 pages per essay.*

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
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January 22, 2010

Please choose 2 (two) of the following essays (try not to exceed 3-4 pages per essay):

1. For the last 30 years, Kenneth Waltz's ideas have shaped the debate on a) what a theory of international relations can and cannot do; b) the implications of structural forces (above all, anarchy); c) the impact of nuclear proliferation. Please select two of those broad topics, present Waltz's views, and discuss how other scholars's ideas on the same issues relate to Waltz's.
2. Unipolarity has been interpreted in many ways by various scholars. Wohlforth, Layne, Ikenberry, Waltz have all expressed different views on the dynamics of such an unusual power configuration. Compare and contrast their opinions.
3. Constructivism represents a major challenge to mainstream international theory. What are the basic tenets of constructivism in international relations? What are its main disagreements with the rationalist approach? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Make explicit reference to the relevant literature and authors.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
PAUL H. NITZE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
BOLOGNA CENTER

**Theories of International Relations
Core Exam**

May 13, 2010

M. Cesa

Please choose 2 (two) of the following essays:

1. Liberal Institutionalism vs. Neorealism. First, outline briefly the basic features of both schools and point out their differences and similarities. Then concentrate on Institutionalism: in its functional variant, Institutionalism claims to “explain more” than Neorealism. On what theoretical and empirical grounds is this claim based? Finally, how does Neorealism respond to the Institutional challenge?
2. The theory of democratic peace. Discuss its origins, its development and its critics.
3. The post-Cold War international system is viewed in different ways by various scholars. Some argue that traditional concepts and theories are still useful in the analysis of the current international system, while others insist that we need new conceptual lenses. Which theories, among those you are familiar with, stress the thesis of continuity? What are their main points?

(A few hints: Concentrate on the specific theme you are writing about: touching upon a number of other issues for the sake of writing something anyway will not help; include explicit reference to the relevant literature and authors; try not to exceed 3-4 pages)