

POL 361 International Organization

Spring 2008 - Exam 1

Instructions:

This is a take-home exam. You must answer **SIX** questions (out of ten). Your answers should be complete and carefully considered. Answers do not have a formal page limit, but typical answers are 1-2 typed, single spaced pages. If you start getting past 2 single spaced pages you are probably writing more than you need to. Each answer is worth 10 points.

All exams must be typed. You may use any standard and easily legible font (Times Roman, Arial, Courier, etc.) and the font size should be *no smaller than 12 point*. You may single space, double space, or any other space you like. I recommend single spaced answers as they use the least paper and have the smallest environmental footprint, as well as making my backpack lighter when I have to carry the exams home.

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. 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. There is no need to include a bibliography unless you use sources other than those assigned in the course.

This is a take-home exam. It is expected that it will be proofread and corrected for basic errors, including basic errors of fact. While I can tolerate some grammatical and spelling errors, they get annoying after a while and repeated errors will result in lost points. 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 significant points will be deducted. You may ask basic questions regarding the exam via email. If I haven't gotten back to you in 24 hours, assume I didn't get your email and send it again. My email treats emails without a subject heading or with spelling errors in common words as spam and deletes them without ever showing them to me, so please include POL361 in the subject line when you ask me a question.

If you wish to discuss your exam before you turn it in, 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. There will be extended office hours the week before the exam is due. The exam is due in class on February 18, 2008. If you do not turn in the exam during class on the 18th, you must put the exam in my mailbox in the Political Science Department Office (Social Sciences 315) **before** 4pm. Be sure to get the right mailbox. There are two Professor Dixon's. My mailbox is on the counter in the mailbox area. Don't ask the department staff to date stamp your exam. Department policy is not to date stamp exams or papers.

ONLY HARD COPY EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED. *You may not submit the exam in any electronic format. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.* Remember: I must receive the hard copy version of the exam by the deadline or the exam will be considered late regardless of emailed or other

electronic copies sent to me.

For each business day late, the exam grade will be lowered by one letter grade (6 points out of 60). You have lots of time. Start early.

Essays – answer six (6) of the following questions

1. Briefly compare and contrast the key elements of the two approaches to international institutions outlined by Robert O. Keohane in the Kratochwil text.
2. Select one of the theoretical schools discussed in the lectures (Realism, Idealism, Marxism, Social Constructivism, or Critical Theory). How does this approach see the prospect of cooperation within the international environment? What are the main obstacles to cooperation in international relations?
3. Much of our modern thinking about international organization revolves around the assumption that the international system is anarchic in nature. Evaluate this assumption in light of the governance systems created since WWII. Is the international system anarchic in nature? If so, have these governance systems mattered? If not, what is the organizing principle of the international system?
4. In the minds of policy-makers engaged in the planning for the post-WWII world, what were the major lessons of the failures of the peace that ended WWI? How did these policy-makers seek to apply these lessons to the post WWII peace?
5. How did the Cold War affect the ability of the US architecture of global governance to work as intended in the years immediately after WWII? How did this affect the role of these institutions as the Cold War dragged on?
6. What role do transnational advocacy networks play in global governance? How much influence can such groups wield in the contemporary world?
7. Compare and contrast the power of the nation state and one of the non-state actors (MNC, NGO, IGO, or transnational advocacy network) we have discussed in class. How does their relative power affect their role in international politics?
8. The increasing use of government networks to regulate global economic transactions is discussed by Anne-Marie Slaughter. Outline her argument and discuss what it implies about the future of world economic governance.
9. What is “the false promise of international institutions” as outlined by Mearsheimer? Is this an accurate portrayal of the role international institutions play in the world?
10. Briefly outline the main reasons that states choose to act through international organizations. Explain how these motives vary depending on the issue areas that organizations may address.