

POL 455

American Foreign Policy

Final Exam

Instructions:

This is a take-home exam. The exam is divided into two sections, a short answer essay section and a long essay section.

You must choose four questions from the short answer section. Your answer should be between half a page and one page for each question. Be concise in your answers. Each answer in the short answer section is worth 10 points.

Section two contains three longer essay questions. You must answer two of these questions. Your answers should be complete and carefully considered. Answers do not have a formal page limit, but typical answers are 2-3 typed pages. If you start getting past 5 pages you are writing more than you should. These essays are worth 30 points each.

All exams should be typed in the following format:

- Double spaced pages
- 12-point Times Roman font
- 1" margins
- Type the number of the question you are answering at the beginning of your answer

Answers will be graded on their ability to apply the material from the course lectures and readings to the questions in a sophisticated way. 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 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.

Essays should follow traditional academic essay format and have a clear main idea that is supported by a strong line of argument and bolstered by direct evidence from the class materials.

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 errors, they get annoying after a while and repeated errors will result in lost points. Basic errors of fact will be considered to be a demonstration that you do not know the information and points will be deducted.

You may ask 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 POL455 in the subject line when you ask me a question.

The exam is due by 2pm on Tuesday, December 13th. It may be submitted at the normal class room or it may be left in the Political Science Department Office on the **MAIN CAMPUS**: 315 Social Sciences. This is an optional exam. If I have not received by the deadline I will assume that you have elected to skip the final exam.

Section 1

1. Briefly describe what distinguishes weapons of mass destruction from other types of weapons. Why do we worry so much about WMD's?
2. Describe the difference between "hard" and "soft" power. Why is this distinction important in evaluating US foreign policy?
3. Briefly explain why globalization limits what the United States can do as part of both foreign and domestic policy.

4. What are the key characteristics for a successful nation building effort? What are the largest mistakes a country can make in nation-building?
5. Briefly describe the role of containment in fighting a war on terror as outlined in “X + 9/11”.
6. Briefly describe the key mistakes of the post WWI settlement that the United States hoped to correct in the post WWII period. How did the US set about correcting each of these mistakes?

Section 2

1. The Iraq war has been followed by a difficult post-war period of reconstruction and nation building. Using what you know about nation building from the Dobbins book and the current situation in Iraq, evaluate the likelihood of “success” in our nation-building efforts in the next five years. Defend your evaluation using concrete examples from the course texts.
2. Compare and contrast the changes to American foreign policy since 9/11 in the areas of economics and security. In which area has the United States been most successful in its changes?
3. America made a massive strategic effort following WWII directed at solving specific international problems derived from the problems of the inter-war period. Arguably, American foreign policy is attempting to make similar changes post-9/11. Given the changes in relative power of the United States from 1945 to 2005, how effectively can we make major changes to global politics and institutions? Defend your answer with examples from the readings.

Grading:

E:

The exam shows no indication that you know the material from the course. The answer reflects either a complete lack of information from the course, or a clear indication that the author does not understand the information being presented.

D:

The exam demonstrates some knowledge of the material. There are errors in fact, and key ideas are either presented erroneously or omitted.

C:

The exam shows a basic knowledge of the key concepts. The material from the course is largely duplicated, but there is little or no original thinking to be found. There may be minor errors of fact, but all of the key ideas from the course are included.

B:

The exam shows a clear knowledge of the key concepts and how they apply to actual events. The exam contains a fair degree of original thinking and makes clear and specific connections between the ideas of the various authors and the lecture material. There are no errors of fact and all of the key ideas are discussed.

A:

The exam shows a complete understanding of both the key concepts and their application to both actual events and across the range of readings. There are clear connections drawn between the different authors in the class, as well as lectures. There are no errors of fact. The exam demonstrates that the author was able to synthesize all of the important information in the course.