

GRADUATING SENIORS: write "Graduating Senior" on all your bluebooks

Political Science 211

Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2004 Final Exam

April 29, 2004

INSTRUCTIONS

There are four parts to this exam: I. Short Answer questions on material since the midterm; II. A pair of essays on the material since the midterm; III. A pair of comprehensive essays; IV. A second pair of comprehensive essays. Each part is worth 30 points, so the maximum score for the entire exam is 120 points. Each short answer question is worth 5 points, and each essay is worth 30 points. Follow the instructions for each section. Even though you will have the entire three hours, plan your time carefully. Outlining an essay before you write is not a bad idea. If you do not understand a question, ask me, don't guess! Good luck and have a good summer (and/or a good life!).

PART I. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS. Do 3 short answer questions from each of the two sets of short answer questions.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE READINGS (5 points/answer).

1. In case 17, Stiles discusses al-Qaeda, which the US and its allies have been actively combating. How does Stiles characterize the goals, organizational structure, and financing of al-Qaeda?
2. Define the security dilemma, as given in chapter 9 of RSK.
3. According to Stiles, ch. 21 what is the problem faced by the debtor cartel established in the mid-80's by major Latin American countries?
4. RSK discuss an open international trade system as a collective (or public) good. What are the two characteristics of a collective good? What are 2 ways the RSK identify as allowing for the supply of a collective good?
5. According to ch. 14 of RSK, what are the three pillars of the EU? Briefly explain them

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE LECTURES (5 points/answer).

6. Under what conditions is it more likely that the characteristics of individuals will make a difference in international relations?
7. What are the characteristics of IGOs?
8. Define horizontal & vertical interdependence.
9. Why might high levels of interdependence make it difficult to use functionalism to achieve integration?
10. What general factors have an impact on changes in support for defense spending in Western countries?

PART II. ESSAYS SINCE THE MIDERM

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

- A. Over the century, the world has become more tightly linked through various interdependencies and states have found themselves grouped together in IO's and other regional subsystems. Many scholars claim that this has led to an increase in the "collective action" problems that states encounter. Write an essay that explains why states face these problems. Give examples from international trade. Then, discuss the ways in which states can overcome the collective action problem. Make sure that you explain how these would apply in international trade (you can use your example to do this). Lastly, explain which solution might be the best in terms of dealing with such problems.
- B. Many scholars claim that the traditional Westphalian logic is not useful anymore in understanding international relations. Indeed, these scholars have come up with an alternative to the state centric view used by previous scholars. Compare and contrast the transnational view against the state centric view. Make sure to discuss the three main differences between these two approaches. Given that the transnational view is becoming more prevalent in international politics, what do you think are its implications in terms of the level of conflict in the future (i.e. would you expect more or less conflict)?

PART III. COMPREHENSIVE ESSAYS

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

- C. From George Washington's farewell address until at least the beginning of the 20th century, the US adopted an isolationist policy, where it sought to avoid "entangling alliances" and engaging in foreign conflicts and trade. Many have argued that isolationist policies are no longer practicable for the US due to higher levels of interdependence between states. What does it mean for states to be interdependent? What is vertical and horizontal interdependence? What is the difference between sensitivity and vulnerability? What factors account for higher levels of economic interdependence in the 20th century? Why have some argued that greater economic interdependence will lead to less conflict? Do you agree? Please justify your answer.
- D. The US has recently stated that it would stop its campaign against a rebel group in Iraq if the group agreed to surrender its heavy weapons. This would allow the US to concentrate more resources on the reconstruction of Iraq, and allow the rebels to pursue more productive and less dangerous activities. Yet the fighting continues. We can look to the security dilemma to explain why the rebels might not be willing to abandon their weapons. What is the security dilemma, and what are its consequences? Why can states not always sign arms control agreements to avoid the SD? What were the factors that Stiles argues allowed the US and the Soviet Union to agree to arms control in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I)? Applying the lessons from SALT I, do you think it is likely that the rebels in Iraq will abandon their arms? Why or why not?

PART IV. COMPREHENSIVE ESSAYS

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

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- E. Consider NAFTA from the point of view of Mexico. First, describe it from the point of view of dependency theory. Then describe it from the point of view of integration. What effects have been attributed to NAFTA in Mexico? Do you think that NAFTA has had a positive or negative impact on Mexico? And has this impact been large or small? Be sure to explain and justify your choices.
- F. In lecture we discussed the conditions that are associated with successful nation building by the US in the post-World War era. Discuss each of these conditions with respect to Iraq. Based on this discussion, do you think the US will be successful in its nation building in Iraq?