**Review Sheet, Third Midterm Exam, GOV 312L: U.S. Foreign Policy**

***Module 17: The United States and International Institutions***

1. What are institutions? What is the difference between institutions and organizations? What are some examples of institutions in domestic and international politics?

2. Understand, explain, and give examples of how international institutions shape international politics through the following mechanisms: a) guiding behavior and shaping expectations; b) providing information about state interests and incentives to comply; c) allocating and generating power for states.

3. How does U.S. membership in international organizations like the UN, NATO, and WTO demonstrate the ability of international institutions to solve a fundamental problem of international politics – to create and preserve coercive power and, at the same time, constrain that same power?

4. Watch the Jon Stewart video clip on the United Nations and explain his critique of the United Nations. Why is this critique “funny but wrong” according to lecture? Why does the United States participate in the United Nations and often abide by its decisions when it could just ignore it instead (because it possesses much greater military capacity than the UN)?

5. What are the Cold War origins of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)? What did Lord Ismay mean when he said the goal of NATO was “to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down”?

6. What dilemmas did NATO face at the end of the Cold War? What was the case in favor of NATO expansion after the Cold War? What was the case against NATO expansion after the Cold War?

7. According to the reading (Chapter 20: Global Governance), what are the incentives for global governance through international institutions? How are efforts at global governance confronted by the collective action problem? Once international agreements are established, what types of problems of compliance and enforcement do international organizations face?

***Module 18: Democracy Promotion in US Foreign Policy***

1. What are the central benefits of democracy? What are some common arguments against democracy?

2. What are the four ways that democracy is expected to affect foreign policy?

3. What is the democratic peace theory? How do the factors that contribute to democracy’s influence over foreign policy in general – electoral constraints, institutional constraints on power such as checks and balances, and a shared democratic identity – help to explain, in particular, peaceful relations between democracies?

4. How and why has Wilsonian foreign policy been a more or less important element within U.S. foreign policy over the years?

5. According to lecture, why does Professor McDonald believe there is no such thing as the democratic peace? What three major critiques does McDonald raise in questioning the logic of the democratic peace theory? What is his alternative explanation for what appears to be a lack of interstate conflict between democracies?

6. What are the political challenges associated with American efforts to promote democracy? What are the benefits associated with promoting democracy around the world?

7. According to the reading (Chapter 18: Democracy and International Relations), what are the defining features of democracy? Describe historical waves of democracy and the possible causes of these waves such as demonstration effects, neighborhood effects, conditionality of international organizations, and the influence of hegemons.

***Module 19: US Trade Policy***

1. If trade makes states wealthier, why is there resistance to globalization? Understand the Heckscher-Ohlin model of trade theory and the domestic distributional consequences of globalization.

2. Since globalization creates economic winners and losers, what are the political implications of globalization and how does this help explain the continuation of trade barriers that constrict national income? Who tends to win and who tends to lose in the domestic political conflict over trade policy?

3. What is the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act (RTAA) and why is it important for understanding the politics of trade policy? Why did the U.S. shift responsibility for trade policy from the legislative to the executive branch?

4. How does the World Trade Organization shape global trade patterns and US trade policy?

5. According to the reading (Chapter 25: Globalization), what are the chief indicators of the increase of globalization since World War I? What is comparative advantage and how does it contribute to aggregate economic gains for states from trade? How does trade contribute to the economic sources of order in the international system?

***Module 20: Finance and US Foreign Policy I***

1. What is the puzzle of the international bond market? Why is it so strong and has such great influence of the financial policies of states?

2. What are three important functions of money? What is the relationship between money and interest rates? How do interest rates affect economic activity? What are the political implications of this relationship?

3. What is the Federal Reserve? How is it different from commercial banks? What are its main functions and policy goals? What are the three key policy instruments of the Fed?

4. What is inflation? What are its negative consequences? What is deflation and why is it also bad? How do you choke off inflation? How are interest rates, the control of inflation, and the reelection of politicians interrelated? What is the monetary version of the fundamental problem of politics and how does having an independent central bank help to prevent this problem?

5. What is quantitative easing and how did it play a big role in resolving the 2008 economic crisis?

6. What is a bond and what are its key traits? How do extremely deep markets in U.S. treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities help make the U.S. dollar a key reserve currency? How does this situation allow the U.S. to run big deficits?

***Module 21: Finance and US Foreign Policy II***

1. What is the Trifflin dilemma? What are its implications for the U.S. economy? What are its security implications?

2. What are exchange rates? How does the differential in exchange rates between countries affect trade (the price of imports and exports)? Understand the example of the U.S. and the Japanese yen in the 2010s that was offered in lecture. What are the implications of differential exchange rates for U.S.-China relations?

3. Explain how the mobility of capital has increased the discipline of global capital (bond) markets. What happens when foreign capital holders lose confidence in a government’s monetary policy? What are some recent examples of this?

4. How does this discipline from the global capital markets affect democratic politics? If bond markets constrain national monetary policy because of the threat that capital will move to a different market then do elected officials have the ability to respond to voters’ demands?

5. What is the International Monetary Fund? What are its main functions? What is the main source of its influence in the international economy? What is conditionality and how does the IMF use it to promote economic reforms within countries? Why does the U.S. have so much influence within the IMF?

6. What is the Bretton Woods economic order? What were the main forces that served as an impetus for the U.S. to construct the Bretton Woods order? What are the main organizations that emerged from Bretton Woods?

7. Discuss the 2008 financial crisis and the role that the United States played in sparking the crisis. How did the U.S. respond to the crisis and why did the U.S. government bail out the banks? What were the political challenges associated with the bailout and what are some of the consequences for the international economic order for the bailout?

8. According to the Farrell reading (his interview with Thomas Oatley), how did the Iraq war contribute to the 2008 financial crisis?

***Module 22: The International Politics of Oil***

1. How does oil compare with other natural resources in terms of its share of energy consumption? What sorts of consequences occur when oil prices go up?

2. What are the important characteristics that make the international oil market unique? Why is it important that oil is traded in a single open market?

3. What are the unique characteristics of the demand for oil? What does it mean that oil has “inelastic” demand and few substitute goods? How does this affect demand for oil?

4. Describe the contours of the supply and demand on the global oil market? Who are the big players? How has new exploration in North America, such as shale oil, changed things?

5. What is OPEC? How much oil does it control? How does it operate to manage oil prices? What is the special role of Saudi Arabia? What has OPEC done in response to the US shale oil revolution and how has the “price war” initiated by Saudi Arabia and OPEC affected global oil prices and US oil production?

6. What is the shale oil revolution? What does it mean for the US to be energy independent and how does the shale oil revolution affect American energy independence? How has the shale oil revolution affected the global price of oil and how have lower oil prices affected geopolitics, especially in the Middle East?

7. According to Glaser and Kelanic, why should the United States consider halting its physical protection for oil sales from the Middle East?

***Module 23: The Environment and US Foreign Policy***

1. What is the basic scientific claim about the causes and extent of climate change? What are the main environmental consequences that scientists fear will result from climate change?

2. What is the tragedy of the commons? Why is it rational for individuals to overuse public goods? How does this phenomenon help to explain the difficulty of managing the sustainable use of commonly held public property? Know some examples.

3. What is an externality?

4. What is the collective action problem? How might it be applied to the challenges of global warming? What are some of the political solutions to the collective action problem in the case of carbon dioxide emissions?

5. What are the three different distributional struggles related to the problem of climate change?

6. What is the Paris climate accord? How might it operate to reduce carbon emissions and limit the increase of average temperatures? How did it navigate the tension between developed and developing countries?

7. According to Urpelainen, what are the pros and cons of the Paris climate accord?

8. What are the main components of the Paris Climate Accord? How should it operate to limit the growth of carbon dioxide emissions?

9. Which group of countries will be the recipients of foreign aid under the Paris Climate Accord? How did this aid help facilitate the construction of this international agreement? And how might this aid help countries fulfill their emission targets?

10. What is a Nationally Determined Contribution?

***Module 24: Immigration Policy***

1. What are the political conflicts in the United States activated by immigration?

2. What are the political challenges and humanitarian costs created by Syrian civil war and the accompanying refugee problem?

3. What policy options might the United States pursue to offset these risks?

***Weekly Update 8 (Tuesday, 11/7/17): NYC terrorist attack, Diversity visa lottery program, MbS and crackdown in Saudi Arabia***

1. Describe the main features of the terrorist attack in New York City. What made this a “lone wolf” type of attack?

2. According to the *NPR On Point* clips, what makes these types of lone wolf attacks so difficult to defend against? How has success in combating large-scale attacks contributed to the frequency and increased vulnerability of small attacks?

3. What is the Diversity Visa Lottery program and why is it attached to this terrorist attack? What is “chain migration” and why does President Trump argue that a more merit-based immigration system will be more effective at preventing terrorist attacks in the US?

4. Describe the anti-corruption crackdown initiated by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MbS). Why do some commentators describe this as a purge?

5. How is the crackdown related to the resignation of the prime minister of Lebanon and a missile attack from Yemen against Saudi Arabia? How are all of these developments related to a broader regional conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran?

***Weekly Update 9 (Tuesday, 11/14/17): Trump trip to Asia***

1. What were the two contradictory messages that President Trump sent to world leaders during his trip to Asia?

2. Compare and contrast the speeches made by President Trump and Chinese President Xi at the APEC conference in Vietnam. What signal did Trump send regarding international free trade agreements? What did he mean by his statement that he “did not blame China” for large trade imbalances with the US? What was Xi’s main message regarding international trade in his speech?

3. How might the messages sent by President Trump and President Xi signal a role reversal for the United States and China in regards to international trade? How does this relate to the power transition theory?

4. How are President Trump’s statements during his trip to Asia part of his larger grand strategy and world view regarding free trade and US national interests? What are some examples of this broader grand strategy?

5. Discuss the interrelationship between Hezbollah’s activities in Syria, Israel, and Saudi Arabia in the ongoing struggle for influence over Lebanese politics. What role has the Trump administration played in these developments?

6. Discuss the rather unusual circumstances surrounding President Trump’s unofficial and brief meeting with Russian President Putin during the APEC meeting in Vietnam. How did Putin’s statement following the meeting put Trump in a difficult bind?

***Weekly Update 10 (Tuesday, 11/21/17): UN climate conference in Bonn, pollution in Delhi***

1. Discuss the main goals of the UN climate conference in Bonn, Germany. What message did the Trump administration give at the conference? How did other American politicians like Jerry Brown send a different message?

2. What were the conclusions of the two scientific reports that sent shock waves at the Bonn conference? Based on the report on carbon emission levels, which countries are likely to be the source of the greatest increases of CO2 emissions? What did the second report say about the nationally determined contributions set by individual countries for the Paris climate agreement?

3. Describe the magnitude of the pollution problem that Delhi, India has been experiencing over the past couple weeks. In what way is level of pollution “extreme”?

4. What measures did local authorities take to address the pollution problem in Delhi?

5. How is the democratic political system in India part of the reason it is so difficult for politicians to address pollution in that country?

***Weekly Update 11 (Tuesday, 11/28/17): Germany’s political stalemate, terrorist attack in Egypt***

1. Describe the results of the 2017 national election in Germany. How did these results differ from the previous election in 2013? How did the entrance of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party affect German politics and the emerging stalemate in the German parliament?

2. What is a coalition government? Describe German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s first attempt to form a coalition government with the Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the Green Party. Why did negotiations fall apart?

3. Following the collapse of talks with the FDP and Greens, what were Merkel’s options and what problems were associated with each option?

4. What were the causes of Merkel’s difficulties in forming a coalition government? How is the “collapse of the center” reminiscent of problems facing German politics in the 1920s? How is 2017 different from the period leading up to the emergence of Nazi Germany?

5. What are some of the implications of Germany’s internal political problems?

6. Describe the terrorist attack in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. Why has this region been a center of terrorist activity? What made this attack “unprecedented”?

7. Why did Islamic militants attack a mosque and fellow Muslims in this case?