

Fall 2020, NENU Junior Reading for Int'l Politics Midterm Oral Exam

Structure & Procedures: The oral exam is worth 50 points; the written exam is worth 50 points. The oral exam has three parts and should take about 7-10 minutes to complete. The exam is 1-on-1 with the instructor. Make sure your camera and microphone are working well before your exam time. Your instructor will first ask three "short answer" questions, worth 10 points each, to check your grammar. Students may request the instructor to ask/repeat the question up to three times (Part 1&2). For "short answer" questions, if you say nothing at all, you will get no points. A one-word answer like "yes" or "no" will only give you one point; similarly, only saying two words without a complete sentence will only earn two points, even if the answer is correct. An answer of "I pass" is worth two points, "I don't know" is worth three points. If your answer can't be understood due to poor grammar or pronunciation, you will receive four points. Wrong answers with perfect grammar will receive five points. Correct answers excluding something important (like an "-s" or an "-ed") will earn six points. Answers with minor grammatical errors will earn seven or eight points. A perfect answer in a complete sentence is worth nine points. To get ten points, give more than one perfect sentence. Part 2 will require you to talk about one of the texts from Western media we read in class, and you'll be graded on accuracy and basic grammar for up to ten points. In the last section, you will speak freely (and converse with the instructor) on a larger topic. You will be graded on your fluency and ability to express yourself (not on vocabulary, grammar, or pronunciation). Prepare at least two topics; if you only prepare one, the instructor will grade more harshly. The instructor will allow you to begin the discussion with two sentences and then begin asking you questions. The last section is worth 10 points, for a total of 50. Students are encouraged to prepare for the exam with a classmate, taking turns asking and answering questions, changing question forms, and talking about the discussion topics!

Part 1: Short Answer (3)- *What is your surname? *What is your full name? *How many parts are in a Western name? *What are the three parts in a Western name? *Who gave you your given/English/Western name? *What are your initials? *What is a maiden name? *Which comes first in the alphabet: ___ or ___? *In what city and province is your college, and what is your major? *On which campus of your university do you attend classes? *What's the difference between an IDP (internally displaced person) and a refugee/a war and a skirmish/a security sensitivity and a vulnerability/traditional & non-traditional security/an interstate war and a civil war? *What region/continent is ___ in/on? *What are two countries on China's ___(N/S/E/W/SW) border? What is the frontier in Jilin Province? *What "world concept" (i.e. the anarchic international system, "the liberal world order," Clash of Civilizations, World Systems Theory, 1st/2nd/3rd/4th-world countries, or Global South/North & developing/developed countries) do you find most useful and accurate, and why? (How do you see the whole world?) *Why is the Monroe Doctrine considered the beginning of the USA's regional hegemony? *What is "The Security Dilemma" in IR? *Why did the U.S. invade Afghanistan in 2001? *What are the two subfields of IR? *Briefly explain hard power/soft power/authority. *What do you think is the best way to measure a state's power, and why?

Part 2: Talk about a text we read in class - Your instructor will ask you 1-3 questions about one of the texts we read in class. You may be asked to name the author, source, publication date, intended audience, or topic. If only one question, it will probably be: "What is this text's main argument? Summarize it."

Part 3: Discussion Questions (Prepare 2 or more, Instructor chooses 1)- 1. In your opinion, should non-violent and non-military threats like climate change and pandemics be included in or excluded from definitions of national security? Why? 2. How much responsibility does the USA have for the refugees created by "post-9/11 wars" and the women of Afghanistan? 3. Do you think states are always under existential threat, generally secure and satisfied with their security, or always trying to increase their power? Provide examples. 4. Considering structure and agency as well as national strategy, how much can a new president change his/her country's foreign policy (fundamentally, a lot, a little, or hardly at all)? 5. How do you think being in so many regions affects China's international relations with its neighbors? 6. To what extent do you think IR theory is really different from ideology (i.e. much of it seems to justify Western or U.S. power as forces for good in the world, despite histories of imperialism)? 7. Anton's article says Trump was wise to reconnect U.S. foreign policy with nationalism and populism, being more isolationist and apparently abandoning the idea of U.S. indispensability. Do you agree or disagree with his article? Why? 8. Karabell's article suggests the U.S.-led order has "crumbled" and the USA has little "soft" power left. Can the "liberal world order" survive the loss of its leader? Should it continue? 9. Joe Biden proposed small changes to U.S. foreign policy, possibly a return to Obama's policies. Do you think these changes would be positive or negative, different enough, and can he accomplish them? Why/why not? 10. Third parties like the Greens and Libertarians propose major reductions (of up to 75%) in the U.S. military budget and to be "neutral" in global conflicts. Regardless of whether they could be elected, are these good or bad ideas? Why?