

IR 101 Final Exam Study Guide Spring 2020

Instructions

Each part of the exam is worth 50%. You will have 120 minutes (2 hours) for the exam – the full exam time – so aim to spend 60 minutes on each part.

Part 1: Terms

Select FOUR terms from the list below. You should – in approximately two paragraphs per term – define the concept, explain its significance, and provide at least one example from the LOTR *or* the discipline of international relations. If a term has a “vs” in it, define both concepts but focus on how they relate to each other, the differences between them, and why these differences are relevant. Be sure that your example touches on both sides in these cases.

1. Positivism vs Post-Positivism
2. Rationalism
3. Feminist IR
4. Washington Consensus
5. Import Substitution Industrialization
6. Marxist IR
7. Epistemology

Part 2: Essay

Answer TWO essay prompts from the list below. Your answer should be approximately five paragraphs and should draw on the textbook, class notes, and what we have covered in the discussion section. You *must* incorporate material from IR *and* LOTR when answering the questions. **You must choose at least one question that focuses on material from the second half of the course** (Questions 1, 2 or 3).

1. What are the different approaches in Feminist IR? What sort of research do they focus on, and how do they conduct this research? Using an example from both the real world and LOTR, explain how two feminist scholars might research the same topic in different ways.
2. How has international trade transformed the international system since the end of World War II? Using two states or regions, illustrate two different ways states responded to trends in international trade. Do you observe similar economic strategies in Middle-earth, or do you believe the economics of the real world and LOTR are too different?
3. What is the difference between positivist IR and post-positivist IR? Give an example of two different schools of thought, showing how one conducts positivist research while the other takes a post-positivist approach. If you were to study an issue, which approach would you take and why? What is gained *and* lost by using your particular choice? Select two issues – one from the real world, and one from LOTR.

4. Discuss the concept of polarity. What are the differences between multipolarity, bipolarity, and unipolarity? In your response, include two examples: 1) Describe the polarity of Middle-earth, and, 2) Give an example of multi-, bi-, or unipolarity in the real world.
5. Pick one of the following pairs: realism and neorealism *or* liberalism and neoliberalism. What are the core tenets of the two theories you selected? How would a theorist of both traditions (ex. a realist and a neorealist) explain a geopolitical struggle, and what would they focus on? How might their analysis differ? Use two examples – one from the real world, and one from LOTR.