

Political Science 222: Problems of the Global Community - Spring 2006
Dr. Kille - Midterm

The midterm exam is take-home format, but must be turned in to my office by Thursday February 16 at 10:50am (the end of the in-class midterm time set on the syllabus). Since this is a take-home format, students are expected to incorporate citations and quotes from the class readings as part of their answer. As such, please provide a full bibliography of all sources referenced in the paper at the end (note that each chapter used should be given a separate citation by author, do not just cite the whole book in general). Please also complete the assignment independently, do not work with other students in the class on devising exact answers, although you are welcome to discuss any issues of confusion with your peers. You must answer two of the three following questions. The midterm counts 20% toward your final course grade - so each answer is worth 10% of the overall course grade. Be sure to answer all parts of each question. Each essay should be a minimum of 4 pages (typed, double spaced, 12 point font - not including the bibliography) in length.

Question 1: 'Global Problems' and Globalization

- a. For a class called Problems of the Global Community, it is important to define what we mean by 'global problems'. How do Snarr and Cusimano Love approach this definitional issue? How would you personally define global problems?
- b. In the opening chapters to their books, both Snarr and Cusimano Love stress the importance of considering globalization in a discussion of global problems. How do these authors define globalization and how do they link globalization to understanding global problems? Be sure to carefully detail the range of areas affected by globalization that these two authors discuss as part of your essay.
- c. Is globalization a positive or negative force in international relations? Provide arguments for both sides. What is Cusimano's "third way" of approaching this globalization debate? In general, what position do you take on this debate?
- d. The issue of globalization arises throughout the material on international conflict and security. Explain how globalization can be linked to discussion of proliferation, terrorism, nationalism, global crime, global drug trade, and cyberthreat. Does your analysis of globalization in these areas alter your position on the globalization debate?

Question 2: Global Problem Solvers and Solutions to International Conflict

A range of actors might be called upon to resolve global problems, including states, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In considering the role of these different actors, and more generally the methods to solve global problems, address the following:

- a. Carefully define sovereign state, IGO, and NGO. What do you believe that relationship between states, IGOs, and NGOs should be in addressing global problems? How do the real world examples of the UN and the EU inform your opinion regarding states and IGOs? How does Cusimano Love support her argument that NGOs have the power to be important actors in the international community? Does she convince you?
- b. Moving beyond this general discussion of the place of states, IGOs, and NGOs in addressing global problems, specifically discuss what roles these actors have and could play in relation to the areas of global conflict and security covered thus far. Do you believe that the proper balance of actors has been achieved in these areas? If not, explain how the involvement of these actors needs to be adjusted in order to better address global conflict.
- c. One key aspect of addressing global problems covered by Simmons and de Jonge Oudraat are global accords. What global accords have been established to address proliferation, terrorism, nationalism, global crime, global drug trade, and cyberthreat? Of course, accords are only one avenue of action to try to create a more secure world. What are the other suggestions provided in the material covered regarding these threats to security? Which solutions do you believe have the best chance of succeeding?

Question 3: The International Security Agenda

P.J. Simmons and Chantal de Jonge Oudraat emphasize the importance of the global agenda when considering what problems need to be addressed and what priority these problems are assigned. In this essay, discuss the global agenda as it relates to the areas of global conflict and security covered in class thus far (i.e. proliferation, terrorism, nationalism, global crime, global drug trade, and cyberthreat) by addressing the following issues:

- a. Why do each of these areas require attention on the global agenda? Carefully and fully define each issue area and then discuss why each is considered a threat to global security. Be sure to support this discussion with arguments put forth in the material read for each section regarding what the problem is and why it is a serious one.
- b. The international community has limited resources to address all global problems. How would you prioritize proliferation, terrorism, nationalism, global crime, global drug trade, and cyberthreat on the global agenda? Be sure to justify your ranking. Are there particular aspects within each category that you believe deserve greater attention than others?
- c. Would such an agenda priority ranking be artificial? As Snarr emphasizes in the opening chapter of *Introducing Global Issues*, we should not lose sight of the interconnectedness of issues. Detail how the reading indicates the connection between the different areas of global conflict. What are the implications of these connections when trying to set the global agenda?