AFRICA UNIVERSITY

(A United Methodist-Related Institution)

"Investing in Africa's Future"

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, PEACE, LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

PSm 541

COURSE TITLE: International Relations (PSM514)

SEMESTER 2: Final Examination - May 2017

LECTURER: Prof. G. Menelik

TIME: 3HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer **All** questions in Section A and any two questions in Section B.

Start **each** question on a new page in your answer booklet.

Credit will be given for logical, systematic and neat presentations.

1a)   A. Modern deterrence theory was developed primarily during the Cold War, to deter leaders of other states while not provoking them. Discuss critically several major contributions to deterrence theory, evaluating their logic and evidence that supports their theoretical perspectives. In particular, compare rational action and psychological perspectives, and how they compete with or complement each other. How applicable is this work to deterring non-state actors in the current era? **(20%)**

1b)   According to structural realism, states cater best for their self-defense by creating alliances and maintaining a balance of power. How adequate is that strategy for dealing with the problem of terrorism confronting the United States? Are there theoretical approaches that help us understand better how to deal with the current problem of terrorism? **(20%)**

Section B: Optional Each 30%

2a)   Critically review the main studies on the political economy of civil war. Do these studies consider any significant international influences on civil war occurrence? What might be some of the channels through which domestic political instability, including civil war, can increase the risk of interstate war and vice-versa? Consider all relevant theories and assess available empirical evidence bearing on these questions **(15%)**

2b)   We have witnessed an unprecedented increase in the level of global trade and financial exchanges since the end of WWII. Without international institutions, this would not have come to pass. Do you agree or disagree with the second statement? Offer both theoretical and empirical defense for your view. **(15%)**

3a)   Since at least the 1980s, IR theory has been taught using the "-isms" as its main categories. More recently, however, there has been a move away from the "-isms" and towards a unified "strategic interaction" approach. Lay out the contours, implications, advantages, and disadvantages of this move. **(15%)**

3b) Uncertainty has long been considered a cause of war. Provide your assessment of arguments about how uncertainty can produce conflict as well as those of their critics. Please specify what types of uncertainty are in play. **(15%%)**

4) A substantial literature has now emerged about the causes, conduct, and outcome of third-party interventions in civil wars. In particular, the literature has converged on a stark view of the prospects for successful nation- and state-building by outside powers. Drawing on these existing studies, what factor(s) do you consider are most important in explaining why these interventions have failed? .**(30%)**

5) Recent research has challenged the conventional view that authoritarian powers do not face domestic audience costs. How are audience costs generated in (some) authoritarian powers, and how do these constraints affect foreign policy, if at all? What methodological challenges are posed by exploring audience costs in authoritarian powers? .**(30%)**

6a) Discuss three mechanisms that scholars have proposed through which international organizations are said to constrain state behavior. Evaluate the merits of the theory and empirical evidence in support of each. .**(15%)**

6b) Some scholars argue that international treaties shape state behavior by spreading norms that shape state preferences. Others argue that these treaties are more punitive instruments, shaping state behavior by via rewards and sanctions (and their threats). Evaluate the theoretical merits and empirical evidence for each position. Which view offers the most compelling account of the effects of international treaties? .**(15%)**

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