



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION**

**HIR 421: LAW AND POLITICS**

**END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**MAY 2021**

**LECTURER: PROF. G. Y. MENELIK**

**DURATION: 7 HRS**

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### ***INSTRUCTIONS***

Answer **ONE (1)** question only.

Attempt **ALL** sections of the question.

Credit will be awarded for logical AND systematic presentations.

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### **Question 1**

“In recent years, there has been growing alarm over a perceived decline in the quality of democracy in a number of democratic polities – not only in some of those established after the demise of Communist regimes in the early 1990s but in some longer-established ones as well.” You have been invited as the Guest Lecturer by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to present a paper entitled the *Incipient Decline of Democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Based on the following themes:

- (a) What do we know about the extent and causes of “democratic backsliding”?
- (b) Are there any theories about the prerequisites and preconditions for democracy that might help us understand the phenomenon of “backsliding”?
- (c) Are there any remedies that come to mind?

Provide the outline of your lecture, highlighting and making reference to relevant contemporary cases. **(Mark allocation 100%)**

### **Question 2**

The recent growing influence of China on the social, economic and political discourses of the modern world have reignited debates on the role of theory in explaining international politics. Write a position paper nuanced on how different theoretical traditions (e.g., Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Marxism) interpret the implications of the rise of China for the future of international politics? In your paper, project an assessment you convincingly think is the most persuasive citing reason. **(Mark allocation 100%)**

### **Question 3**

“International law is a more or less viable strategy in securing “world order”. Beginning with a carefully developed and productive definition of world order, write an essay in which you then explain how international law can best ensure our long-term planetary wellbeing and survival. In your response, begin with an explicit hypothesis, and to characterize carefully the relevant institutions and processes of international law. **(Mark allocation 100%)**

**End of Paper**

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