



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

**NHIR421: LAW AND POLITICS**

**END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**AUGUST/DECEMBER 2021**

**LECTURER: Prof. G. Menelik**

**DURATION: 5 HRS**

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### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer **ONE** Only.

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Your response will be evaluated not only on your competences and knowledge of the relevant literature, but also on your ability to think independently and make a compelling/innovative argument.

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All questions carry equal marks (100).

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Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentations

**GOOD LUCK**

### **Question 1**

One of the main distinctions within International Relations theory is between rational theories and all other, extra-or non-rational theories of international politics. Basing your answer on this assertion:

- (a) Discuss the role of rationality in International Relations theory.
- (b) Compare and contrast rational theories in International Relations. Your response should clearly bring out your views on the potential and limitations of rational theories in International Relations.
- (c) How can we better incorporate the non-rational aspects of international behavior into the theories? In your response, identify specific issues or areas within International Relations to illustrate and support your argument

### **Question 2**

Some scholars talk of a “nuclear revolution,” where nuclear weapons have radically transformed international politics. Others view these claims in a skeptical light, arguing that power politics remain largely unchanged in a nuclear world. As an international advisor on the proliferation of arms, you have been assigned to advise the President of the United States on nuclear weapons.

- (a) Write a paper on what you would advise President Joe Biden regarding the Iran and North Korea nuclear programs
- (b) Your advice to the President should be grounded in relevant theories and empirical evidence.

### **Question 3**

In the 1980s and 1990s, International Relations scholars vigorously debated whether international institutions have any independent effect on state behavior. Has this debate been resolved? Critique and describe ways in which international laws and institutions are theorized to affect state behavior. Is there convincing empirical evidence that institutions change outcomes? Cite specific examples and discuss how studies have dealt with obstacles to causal inference.

**End of Paper**