

POLS 321 Midterm Exam Study Questions - The Midterm exam on February 8, 2010 will consist of 2 of the following 7 questions. You will be required to answer 2 of the 4 selected questions on exam day.

1. What does it mean to say the US foreign policy is means driven? How does this cybernetic-policy instrument based approach differ from the rational choice goal oriented approach?
2. I have made the argument that US foreign policy is marked by a tremendous amount of continuity since approximately 1900. On what grounds to I make that claim and based upon what you have learned to date, do you find it persuasive?
3. Do you find the argument made that the U.S. was activist in world in the 1800s based upon its use of military forces abroad persuasive? If so, how come? If not, why not?
4. I have argued that the US has been in the business of acquiring and maintaining client states since about 1900. Your friend (at your favorite coffee shop) says this is silly. We have friends, allies and enemies and besides the United States has gone through periods of isolationism and activism during this time frame and that is hardly compatible with the notion of relatively continuous acquisition and maintenance of clients. What kind of evidence and argument would you muster to defend the client state argument?
5. Discuss the five contexts of client acquisition and choose five specific examples of client acquisition to elaborate how each context “works.” In what ways are these contexts of acquisition cybernetic-like?
6. Describe how the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, and NATO fit together into a coherent U.S. foreign policy strategy that brings together political, economic, and security concerns.
7. NSC-68 established the policy approach that many Presidential administrations followed to contain communism and develop a stable open free trade system. Discuss how the construction and application of the tools the US employed to routinely maintain clients played a role in this plan.