

PS12: STUDY GUIDE FOR THE MIDTERM

This list does not include historical events. You should know at least the ones discussed in lecture, especially the major conflicts.

I. SCIENTIFIC METHOD

- what is a theory?
- why do we need theories?
- what are explanatory, dependent variables?
- what is a causal mechanism?
- what is the role of assumptions?
- what are necessary and sufficient conditions?
- what is logical consistency?
- what is empirical validity?
- what is falsifiability?
- how do we select among theories?
- what is a hypothesis?
- what is a normative theory?

II. STATE AND ANARCHY

- what is realism, liberalism, radicalism?
- what are the levels of analysis?
- what is the modern state system?
- what is nationalism?
- what is Social Darwinism?
- what is Marxism/Leninism?
- what are enabling and constraining forces?
- what is anarchy and what are its two features?
- what is hierarchy?
- what is sovereignty?
- how far does sovereignty extend?
- what is the state?
- what is security?
- how does authority differ from coercion?
- what was Milgram's experiment?
- what was Zimbardo's experiment?
- what are intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)?
- what are nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)?
- what are transnational organizations?
- what is geopolitics?
- what is technology?
- what are the spheres of influence?
- what are alliances, nonalignment?
- what is polarity and how does it affect system stability?
- what is hegemony?
- what is the balance of power?
- what is power transition?
- what is preponderance of power?
- what is balancing, bandwagoning?
- what is unilateralism, multilateralism?

III. RATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

- how do we define rationality?
- what is the rational actor model?
- what is game theory?
- what is misperception?
- what is the individual limitation critique?
- what is the organizational critique?
- what is the principal-agent problem?
- what is the social aggregation critique?
- what is strategic choice?
- what defines actors?
- what defines the environment?
- what is strategic interaction?

IV. BARGAINING AND DYNAMIC COMMITMENT

- what is international cooperation, conflict?
- what is distributional conflict?
- what is pure conflict/pure cooperation?
- what is a mixed-motive situation?
- what is bargaining power?
- what is tacit bargaining?
- what is soft power?
- what determines national capabilities?
- what is strategic coercion?
- what is a commitment?
- what is the dynamic commitment problem?
- what is credibility?
- what is one problem with common measures of power?
- what is the hurt-more criterion?
- what is the tactic of reducing freedom of action?
- what is a commitment device?
- what is the tactic of relinquishing initiative?
- what is signaling, costly signaling?
- what is signal-jamming?
- what is cheap talk?
- what is screening?

V. DOMESTIC POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHOICE

- what are international/domestic constraints?
- what is foreign policy?
- what is the national interest?
- what is preference aggregation?
- what is Condorcet's Paradox?

- what is Arrow's Impossibility Theorem?
- what is the importance of the agenda-setter?
- what is McKelvey's Chaos Theorem?
- what is a cycling problem?
- what is intransitivity?
- what is mass public opinion?

VI. MILITARY CONFLICT

- who was von Clausewitz and what was his contribution?
- what does "war is an instrument of policy" mean?
- what was the impact of the French and Industrial Revolutions?
- what is total war?
- what are the three images of war?
- what is competition for scarce resources?
- what was the *Pax Romana*?
- what is relative deprivation?
- why is violence unlikely to disappear?
- what is a just war?
- what is colonialism?
- what is imperialism?
- what is mercantilism?
- what are the imperialist wars?
- what is the democratic peace?
- what is the distribution of power?
- what is nuclear proliferation?
- what is the dynamics of mutual alarm?
- what is the reciprocal fear of surprise attack?
- what is first-strike capability?
- what is mutually assured destruction (MAD)?
- what is second-strike capability?
- what is a preemptive strike/war?
- what is a preventive war?
- what is crisis stability?

VII. CAUSES OF WAR

- why study rationalist explanations for war?
- what is the puzzle of war?
- why is war inefficient ex post?
- what is a bargaining range?
- what is an implicit use of force?
- what is issue indivisibility?
- what are side payments?
- what is strategically induced indivisibility?
- what is asymmetric information?
- what is a reservation value?
- what is the risk-return trade-off?

- what are the incentives to misrepresent?
- what is the time inconsistency problem?

VIII. DETERRENCE AND COMPELLENCE

- what is brute force?
- what is strategic coercion?
- what is deterrence?
- what is compellence?
- what are threats/promises?
- what is a trip-wire/glass plate?
- what are the salami tactics?
- what is direct/extended deterrence?
- what is general/immediate deterrence?
- what is the problem of entrapment?
- what is a policy of strategic ambiguity?
- what are the components of a strategic calculation?
- how can one reduce the opponent's value of conflict?
- what is a punishment strategy?
- what is a risk strategy?
- what is a denial strategy?
- what is a decapitation strategy?
- how can one reduce the opponent's value of unopposed gain?
- how can one improve the opponent's value of the status quo?
- what is an arms race?
- what is arms control?
- what is disarmament?

IX. BRINKMANSHIP

- what are nuclear weapons?
- what are weapons of mass destruction (WMD)?
- what is the nuclear revolution?
- what is massive retaliation?
- what is the credibility problem?
- what is a crisis?
- what is crisis bargaining?
- what is the Game of Chicken?
- what is the final clear chance to prevent disaster?
- what is the tactic of severing communications?
- what is the preemption syndrome?
- what is strategic irrationality?
- what is brinkmanship?
- what is the threat that leaves something to chance?
- what is the shared risk of disaster?
- what is limited retaliation?
- what is the No-Cities doctrine?
- what is an autonomous risk?