Feedback Tutorial Letter

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY (IRD721S/IRO721S)

Assignment number 1
Course Name: International Relations and Organisations

Course Code: IRO721S

Department: Social sciences

Course Duration: One Semester

NQF Level and Credit: Level 7; 15 Credits

Marker-tutor Details

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Ms N.N. Puleinge would like to use this opportunity to thank all International Relations and Organisations students for submitting Assignment 1. The overall performance is good, but you are encouraged to work harder in assignment 2. Students are encouraged to conduct Mrs Puleinge should they need any assistance with the assignments.

The following are common challenges identified during tutor marking:

- Most of the materials/sources listed under the reference page are not cited anywhere in the body of an assignment.
- Some students did not use neither the American Psychological Association (APA) nor Harvard referencing style. Please acquire a copy of the APA referencing manual from NUST Library.
• Practical and relevant examples were not provided by many students; therefore, general information about the topic was presented.

ASSIGNMENT 1 (MEMO)

Liberalism originally arose from both deep scholarly and philosophical roots. With the theory’s prime principle being international cooperation and peace, early influences are seen in some bigger religious practices sharing the same goal. It was later in the 17th and 18th centuries in which political liberalism began to take a form that challenged nobility and inherited inequality. Liberals believe that international institutions play a key role in cooperation among states. With the correct international institutions, and increasing interdependence (including economic and cultural exchanges) states have the opportunity to reduce conflict. Interdependence has three main components. States interact in various ways, through economic, financial, and cultural means; security tends to not be the primary goal in state-to-state interactions; and military forces are not typically used. Liberals also argue that international diplomacy can be a very effective way to get states to interact with each other honestly and support nonviolent solutions to problems. With the proper institutions and diplomacy, Liberals believe that states can work together to maximize prosperity and minimize conflict.

Liberalism is one of the main schools of international relations theory. Liberalism comes from the Latin liber meaning "free", referred originally to the philosophy of freedom. Its roots lie in the broader liberal thought originating in the Enlightenment. The central issues that it seeks to address are the problems of achieving lasting peace and cooperation in international relations, and the various methods that could contribute to their achievement.

The international environment is generally one of anarchy dominated by states where there is no authority that makes states play nice with each other. Nevertheless, states are not the only
actors on the world stage today, and there is oftentimes cooperation between the actors. Regime theory attempts to explain these realities.

A major limitation to Liberalism is the degree to which individual freedoms of one can be protected without violating freedoms of another. John Stuart Mill identified a harm principle, outlining the extent of authority permitted over an individual. By reducing political to economic and class power and by calling for the ‘end of polities’, Marxism itself tends to marginalize or exclude certain types of issues from politics. Classic examples are the domination of nature by industry of women by men and of certain racial and ethnic groups by others.

**NOTE:** Relevant and practical examples must be provided throughout the essay while keeping in mind the country of your choice!

Regime theory argues that power in the international system is distributed across different states and non-state actors, such as nongovernmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and multinational companies, that cooperate on specific issues based upon a set of international regimes. Regimes are the manifestation of cooperation among actors in the international system.

International relations scholar Stephen Krasner defines an international regime as 'principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures around which actors’ expectations converge in a given issue area.' You can kind of think of a regime as a rulebook that covers a specific area of international relations upon which most of the players agree to abide with general areas of cooperation. Let's look at a quick example of a regime.

Our current system of international trade can be viewed as a regime. The principles, rules, and norms of our international system of trade revolve around free trade, globalization, diplomacy to resolve trade issues, and the creation of international trade organizations, such as the World Trade Organization. Most states participate and cooperate within this trade regime.
Keep in mind that a regime is not an all-encompassing set of principles that govern the entire international system, like the concept of state sovereignty. Instead, under the theory, regimes focus on specific areas of international life, like our trade example, nuclear proliferation, international finance, and security.

Limitations of Liberalism theory

Liberalism’s main limitation is the reduction of political power and thus, the neglect of the dangers of centralized political power and the problems of accountability. Marxism’s central failure is the reduction of political power to economic power in relation to democracy.

Limitations of Regime theory

Regime theory is a theory within international relations derived from the liberal tradition that argues that international institutions or regimes affect the behavior of states or other international actors. It assumes that cooperation is possible in the anarchic system of states, as regimes are, by definition, instances of international cooperation.

Students should choose any country of your choice, differentiate between Liberalism and Regime theory. Analyse the two theories and provide attainable recommendations.

End of feedback tutorial letter