



**Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution  
Qualifying Exam – June 7, 2011  
Part I - Theories**

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The Qualifying Exam is in a three-day, non-proctored format. During each of the three days, students will be able to access the exam at 9:00 am East Coast time. We previously advised that you would have eight hours to complete each section. The DCAR faculty members do not believe it will take you longer than eight hours to complete each day's questions. However, we have agreed to permit the assignment box to remain open until 8:59 am East Coast time, the following day. This will enable you to plan your time, prepare a draft, edit, and submit your final responses. You may use whatever materials you choose, but you are expected to work alone. You are expected to write the exam answers *in your own words* and to support your analysis with appropriate references.

**Students will answer one question from this section.**

Faculty members wish to remind students sitting for the exam that the exam is not designed to replicate a final exam in any particular course or courses. The questions draw from a variety of areas within the program and it is anticipated that by now, you are able to present a critical analysis integrating material from across the program. For example, while the Practice question and responses emphasize the theories, models, and applied processes covered in courses such as Human Factors, Negotiation, and Mediation, you are expected to draw from across the program, as appropriate.

Students are also reminded to support their analysis by referencing theory, theorists, models, and other academic material. All material used must be referenced and all references must be properly cited. Moreover, the exam is to be in your own words. Therefore, you may not extract information, even if properly cited, and simply place it into your answer. An occasional brief quote may be acceptable, anything more is not. Answers will be subject to submission to Turnitin.com. All references cited in your answer must appear in the reference pages. You should include a reference page in addition to citing within the body of your answers. You may use either APA or Chicago citation styles, but you must be consistent and choose only one style. We strongly urge you to submit your answers first to the turn-it-in box so that you can make sure you do not have plagiarized material in your answer. The final submission is to the webct assignment box.

**Exam answers should be well thought out, clear, and well written. The analysis should be supported with appropriate references. Answers should be between seven and ten pages per question, excluding reference pages. Please be certain you are answering *each section* of the question you select.**

**You will notice that attached to the question is a grading rubric. The grading rubric will show you the expectations of the faculty graders. Please review the rubric carefully. It will assist you in planning and executing your answer. The grading rubric will also be used by the faculty graders in assessing your answer. The department believes the addition of the rubric will provide you with even more clarity about expectations and how your answer will be graded.**

**It is your responsibility to submit the responses each day prior to the assignment box closing. Do not include your name in any part of the document. Please save files in a word document. Do not save in PDF format. The assignment box will open at 9:00 am (East coast time) and will close at 8:59 am the next day (East coast time). If you miss the deadline, your responses will not be considered. Therefore, please plan accordingly. We suggest you do not wait until the last few minutes to submit your answers.**

**We all wish you good luck.**

## Qualifying Exam – Theories

Those that study, teach, and publish within the matrix Conflict Analysis and Resolution come from diverse backgrounds and many different academic disciplines. Our field is inherently multidisciplinary and within each discipline within the matrix of Conflict Analysis and Resolution there is a variety of theoretical schools of thought that are designed to explain the world around us and how humankind interacts within it.

It is imperative for any graduate student to be aware of the world around him and current events. This is done by reading newsprint, blogs, and journals. Also, this is done by watching local, national, and international news. The goal of this question is to find ANY news story or current event you have read about or watched over the course of the last trimester and explain the causes, effects, and consequences of it through the lens of FOUR different theoretical perspectives (theoretical schools of thought) that makeup the different disciplines found within the matrix of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. In other words, pick ONE current event or news story and write as if you were a proponent of that particular theory and do this FOUR times with FOUR different theories.

The challenging part comes next; with each of the FOUR theories you have chosen you must then critique each one through the lens of an additional theory. To truly understand a theory it is imperative that you are able to correctly critique it. For example, let's say you pick rising poverty as your current event and you explain it through the lens of Marxism. Following this you critique Marxism through another theoretical perspective, let's say black-radicalism and argue that rising poverty is the result of race-relations where minorities are enslaved within white dominated socioeconomic and sociopolitical institutions and not class-relations where the proletariat is enslaved by the bourgeoisie. From here, explain how Marxism does not acknowledge race-relations/enslavement.

There are NO limitations or restrictions on the current even you decide to explain from four different theoretical perspectives (theoretical schools of thought). The four theoretical perspectives you choose can be anything associated with any discipline found within the matrix of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and can include: realism, liberalism, neorealism, neoliberalism, Marxism, neomarxism, constructivism, feminism, radical feminism, black-theory, radical black theory, deconstructivism, functionalism, structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, positivism, neopositivism, revisionism, American pragmatism, rational choice, queer theory, Islamic theory, relative deprivation, new social movement, political process, resource mobilization, proof theory, speculative reason, critical theory, postmodern critical theory, social constructivism, social cubism, and ANY other theoretical perspective not covered in this list.

## GRADING RUBRIC

Description	Total Points
<p>Introduction: Explain your four theories you plan to cover in your essay (giving each one sentence). Then write a clear and concise interdictory paragraph that explains your current event. Your introduction must be TWO full paragraphs (a full paragraph is considered one that has five complete sentences).</p>	6
<p>Body of Essay: Provide a definition and explanation (as to what constitutes) your <b>first</b> theory (must be one full paragraph). Write two paragraphs that clearly demonstrate your current event (either directly or indirectly) through the lens of your <b>first</b> theory. Make reference to TWO theorists that are included in the literary canons associated with your <b>first</b> theory you have chosen (a literary canon are ALL the written works associated with a theory. This means that if you have 100 different theories then you would have 100 different literary canons). Finally, critique the <b>first</b> theory through the lens of an additional theory.</p>	20.5
<p>Body of Essay: Provide a definition and explanation (as to what constitutes) your <b>second</b> theory (must be one full paragraph). Write two paragraphs that clearly demonstrate your current event (either directly or indirectly) through the lens of your <b>second</b> theory. Make reference to TWO theorists that are included in the literary canons associated with your <b>second</b> theory you have chosen (a literary canon are ALL the written works associated with a theory. This means that if you have 100 different theories then you would have 100 different literary canons). Finally, critique the <b>second</b> theory through the lens of an additional theory.</p>	20.5
<p>Body of Essay: Provide a definition and explanation (as to what constitutes) your <b>third</b> theory (must be one full paragraph). Write two paragraphs that clearly demonstrate your current event (either directly or indirectly) through the lens of your <b>third</b> theory. Make reference to TWO theorists that are included in the literary canons associated with your <b>third</b> theory you have chosen (a literary canon are ALL the written works associated with a theory. This means that if you have 100 different theories then you would have 100 different literary canons). Finally, critique the <b>third</b> theory through the lens of an additional theory.</p>	20.5

<p>Body of Essay: Provide a definition and explanation (as to what constitutes) your <b>fourth</b> theory (must be one full paragraph). Write two paragraphs that clearly demonstrate your current event (either directly or indirectly) through the lens of your <b>fourth</b> theory. Make reference to TWO theorists that are included in the literary canons associated with your <b>fourth</b> theory you have chosen (a literary canon are ALL the written works associated with a theory. This means that if you have 100 different theories then you would have 100 different literary canons). Finally, critique the <b>fourth</b> theory through the lens of an additional theory.</p>	<p>20.5</p>
<p>Conclusion: A concluding a paragraph that sums up your arguments and your current event.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>You MUST receive more than 70 points to pass this section</b></p>	<p><b>100</b></p>