human rights & global affairs, psc 351.001

Mid-Term

A. SHORT QUESTIONS

Answer all questions (estimated time: 30 minutes).

1.) Identify the status of the following international human rights instruments in international law:
   a. Universal Declaration of Human Rights ---
   b. International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights ---
   c. Judgments of the International Criminal Court (ICC) ----
   d. United Nations Convention against Apartheid ---
   <<2 points>>

2.) Explain what Karl Marx meant when he distinguished between “political” and “human” emancipation.
   <<2 points>>

3.) How do neorealists and idealists differ on the issue of human rights in foreign policy? Which perspective is more likely to advocate military force in defending human rights abroad?
   <<3 points>>

4.) What is the meaning of indivisibility and inalienability in the context of human rights? <<2 points>>

5.) Describe the core differences between international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL). <<3 points>>

6.) Why do human rights ideas challenge state sovereignty? <<2 points>>

7.) What is the core difference between an intergovernmental organization and a non-governmental organization? <<1 point>>

B. ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer two of the three questions below (estimated time: 30 minutes; 5 points each):

8.) How do Hobbes and Locke differ on the state of nature? Why do individuals enter a social contract in each perspective? Is the death penalty compatible with Lockean ideas of the social contract?

9.) Explain how domestic activists can use the “boomerang pattern” to promote human rights. What are the core techniques of non-state efforts to promote human rights? Why can NGOs like Amnesty International sometimes succeed in pushing a government towards more respect for human rights?

10.) What are the differences between United Nations treaty- and charter-based human rights mechanisms? Name at least two examples for each. Assess the effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting human rights on a global scale.

The total is 25 points. The score will be converted into a fraction of 20 (per cent of the final grade).