



HIS311

Canadian External Relations

(2015-2016)

FINAL EXAM PREP SESSION
APRIL 15, 2016 @ 208N MUNK

AGENDA FOR THE EXAM PREP SESSION

- 1) **Strategies for success: How to prep for HLS311 exam**
- 2) **A timeline of key turning points in HLS311 (interactive)**
- 3) **Highlights of key themes/events to look out for...**
- 4) **Practice exercise for the terms section (interactive)**
- 5) **Mock exam question – essay outlining (group exercise)**
- 6) **Q/A**

KEY DETAILS ABOUT THE EXAM

- ▶ **DATE: Wed, April 20, 2016 @ 9am-12 noon**
- ▶ **LOCATION: St. Vlad**
- ▶ **ARRIVE BY: 8:30AM**
- ▶ **Be seated with t-card by 8:45am**
- ▶ **EXAM STARTS right on time**



FINAL EXAM STRUCTURE

Section A – TERMS

Section B – ESSAY (TUT readings * make specific reference)

Section C – ESSAY(broad themes of the entire course)

- All sections are of equal value
- Spend 1 hour per section
- Choices given for all sections
- No exam aid allowed

SOME TIPS FOR TIME MGMT @ the EXAM

- ▶ Answer FIVE terms in Section A. Write ONE essay in Section B and ONE essay in Section C. Please identify the terms/questions you are answering.
- ▶ Print clearly (do not write in cursive)
- ▶ It is important to identify the term and explain significance for Section A.
- ▶ Be strategic in what you choose. Take 10 minutes at the beginning of the exam to select which terms/essay questions you will answer.
- ▶ Always create an outline (bullet points) before you start writing.
- ▶ You may single space when you write in the booklet. Number your booklets and put your name and student number in all booklets.

RESOURCES FOR STUDYING

- **HIS311 Course syllabus & Lecture Notes/PPT slides**
- **HIS311 course textbooks**
- **Your tutorial reading notes, presentation notes & handouts**
- **Past HIS311 exams (U of T library catalogue)**

<http://exams.library.utoronto.ca/>

- **Your own research papers**
- **A list of Canadian Prime Ministers & External Ministers**
- **Canadian Encyclopedia & Dictionary of Canadian Biographies**

PART I: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

**>> MY TOP 10 TIPS ON HOW TO PREP FOR
HIS311 FINAL EXAM..**

Tip #1: Devise a stellar “Game Plan” 😊

- ▶ **PLAN EARLY.** Devise a detailed plan for yourself for exam prep (ie set up specific deadline for yourself to consolidate notes, review and memorize, mock exam).
- ▶ Be disciplined in how much time you spend per given time period/essay topics. Study at a designated location, time, and be sure to move on...



Tip#2: Chronology + facts + teamwork

- ▶ Create a HIS311 timeline for yourself using the course materials focusing on key turning points in the history of Canadian external relations.
- ▶ Work with a partner/team if you wish and create a compilation of terms/outlines for different topics. If you are working in a team, be sure to fact-check notes



Tip #3: Use online resources to power - boost your notes!

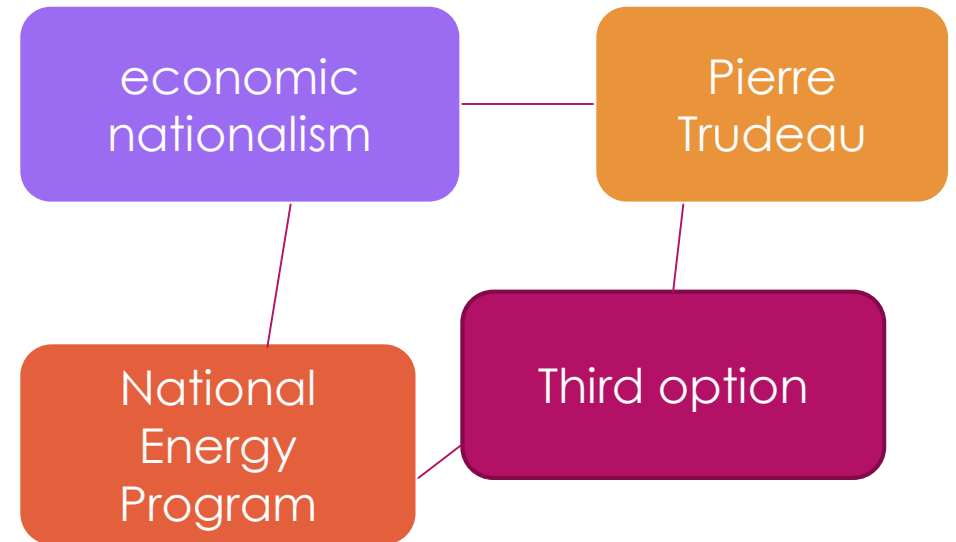
- ▶ **USE ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR YOUR EXAM NOTES.** Your answer will only be as good as your notes.
- ▶ Take advantage of online resources like the **Dictionary of Canadian Biographies** and the **Canadian Encyclopedia** >> fantastic resources

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/>

<http://www.biographi.ca/en/index.php>

Tip #4: Cluster strategy

- ▶ When you are consolidating your notes for terms, try to group them together (ie by theme/topic or Prime Minister or a period in history). This will save you time in the long run and help your cognitive process.
- ▶ Try to categorize terms/color code them as needed



Tip #5: Balance general knowledge & key areas of expertise

- ▶ Develop 4-5 areas of specialty for the essay sections. This means creating detailed outlines, practicing the actual writing process, and memorizing all the relevant key facts.
- ▶ You cannot be a master of all the details but the topics you choose for your essays should reflect both your intelligence and analytical abilities.



Tip #6: Identify your own learning style & play to your strength

- ▶ **Use colors to code your own memory.** You can use highlighters to reflect different themes, time periods, characters, dates, terms, etc.
- ▶ If you are a visual learner, try to look up photos, pictures and maps on google for the terms and essay topics you are covering. This will help you understand your written notes better and make the process more enjoyable. If you are more of an audio learner, listen to CBC audio clips and watch youtube videos on key moments in Canadian external relations.
- ▶ You can also record yourself for given terms/essay outlines you have put together and listen to them over and over on your phone/computer. The key point is to ensure that the exam prep procedure best matches your learning style.



Tip #7: Practice synthesizing & understanding > memorizing

- ▶ Spend roughly the same amount of time in terms of memorizing all the facts and in terms of synthesizing the themes, trends and macro-level analysis we have covered in the course.
- ▶ Practice debating with your study group or doing a concept map/brainstorming chart on a large sheet of paper for various time periods, PMs, themes, and issues you are specializing in for the essay qns.



Tip #8: Practice makes perfect

- ▶ **Practice writing** in an isolated setting for three hours from 9am to 12 noon using a past exam from HIS311.
- ▶ This will help **tune your body** for the exam setting, especially if you are not used to sitting straight for three hours, if you are not a morning person, or if you have not been practicing handwriting for so long.
- ▶ You can also see how you do & study more...😊



TIP#9: LEAVE NO DETAIL BEHIND

- ▶ If you can, visit the exam venue before the exam date to familiarize yourself with the physical environment you will be dealing with. This will help you cope better with anxiety on the day of the exam and prepare accordingly.
- ▶ Last-minute cramming is generally not good for your condition on the exam. Be sure to eat well, work out/meditate, and treat yourself well. Take it easy and relax on Tuesday night. 😊

Keep
going.
you've
got
this

Tip#10: ENJOY THE PROCESS!

- ▶ Lastly, remember that the final exam is a **chance for you to shine!** Whatever you have learned in this course will serve you far in your future endeavors. As stressful as it seems, you will find the exam to be extremely fair if you have been paying attention in lecture and tutorials. So try to relax, enjoy and reward yourself.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
GOOD
LUCK**

PART II: #HIS311 TIMELINE

(INTERACTIVE EXERCISE: 10 MINS)

#HIS311 CHRONOLOGY

War
of
1812

TODAY

PART III: KEY THEMES & EVENTS

GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

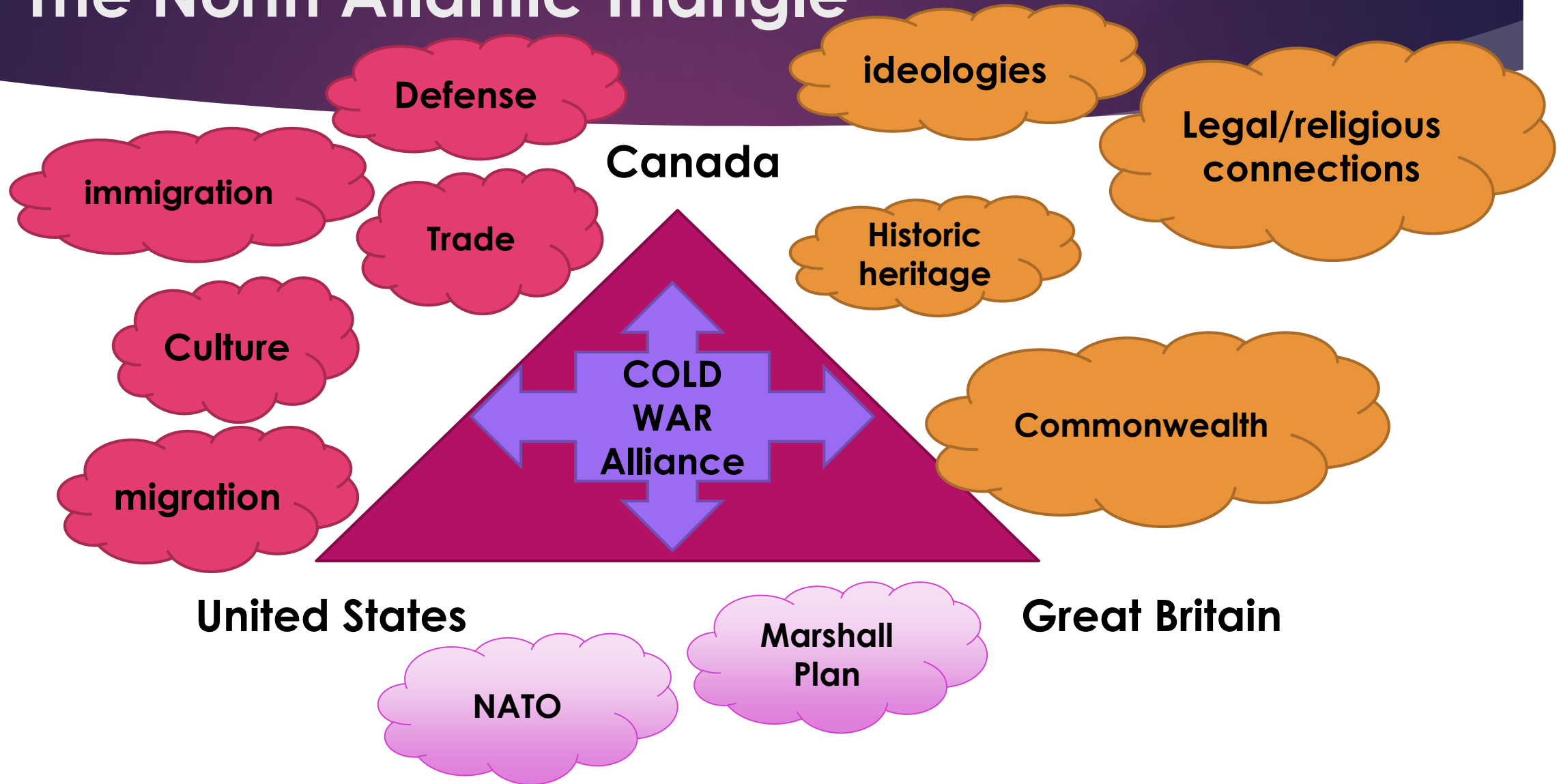
- ▶ Large land mass, low pop. density
- ▶ English-Canada vs French-Canada
- ▶ Federal-Provincial relations
- ▶ Shift in the North Atlantic Triangle
- ▶ Foreign investment
- ▶ Canada-U.S. relations
- ▶ \$\$\$ Economy & resource dependency
- ▶ Public opinion & diversity in composition
- ▶ = Ultimately tied to who we are as a nation



Key themes: #HIS311

1. National Unity & tension between English-Canada and French-Canada
2. Federal-Provincial relations & role of geography in Canadian discourse
3. The British Empire & the Commonwealth
4. Canada-U.S. relations (military, political, economic, cultural, etc.)
5. Liberal, democratic values in Canadian foreign policy
6. Commitment to global humanitarianism & multilateralism
7. Impact of domestic politics & economy on foreign policy
8. Characters & Circumstances *role of personalities

The North Atlantic Triangle



FOCUS ON: FIRST SEMESTER

- ▶ **First Nations**
- ▶ **Europe in the Making of America**
- ▶ **The War of 1812**
- ▶ **Imperialism & Early Canadian Life**
- ▶ **Free Trade & Canadian-American relations**
- ▶ **The First World War & Paris Peace Conference**
- ▶ **King & Politics of Appeasement**
- ▶ **The Second World War**

FOCUS ON: SECOND SEMESTER (see the other exam prep pkg)

- ▶ The Cold War
- ▶ The Korean War
- ▶ Suez Crisis & birth of the UN Peacekeeping Operations
- ▶ “Quiet Diplomacy” & the Vietnam War
- ▶ *Vive le Quebec libre* & “Guerre de drapeaux”
- ▶ Economic nationalism & Pierre Trudeau
- ▶ Mulroney & Free Trade
- ▶ 9/11 & the War on Terror
- ▶ Human Security Agenda, R2P & Global Humanitarianism

PART IV: PRACTICE QN

(SECTION A – TERMS)

Tips on answering term questions (Section A)

1. **Identify** the term explicitly and clearly (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How) (50%)
 2. Relate the term to core themes of the course for the **significance** part (50%)
- 5 terms for 1 hour >> Spend 10 minutes per question (roughly 1-1.5 pgs single-spaced)
 - ALWAYS brainstorm/outline before you begin writing
 - It is important to get the factual details straight
 - **Think about the Canadian context + international context**
 - Focus on specific terms rather than really big ideas
 - Useful to memorize the chronology of Canadian prime ministers at the very least
 - Leave at least 2 minutes/qn to proofread for any mistakes in dates/spellings

SECTION A: TERMS (interactive)

► Identify and give significance to ONE of the following terms:

- 1) **The Boer War**
- 2) **Tecumseh**
- 3) **The National Policy**
- 4) **Paris Peace Conference**
- 5) **The Hyde Park Declaration**

PART V: ESSAY QNS

SECTION B & SECTION C

Tips on essay questions

1. **Figure out what the question is asking** (take a position, take note of the time frame/geographical scope, etc)
2. Prepare a **thesis** (be explicit, analytical & clear)
3. Tackle any **definitions** in the introduction (if needed)
4. Brainstorm **3-5 key arguments** & supporting examples/details
5. Think about broader **themes** that relate to the core of the question & any elements to add from HIS311 LEC/TUT/readings etc.
6. Always **create an outline** before you start writing, and leave at least 5-7 minutes at the end for **proofreading**

A Sample Outline

Facts &
Figures

PERSONALITIES

- ▶ **THESIS:**
- ▶ **Scope of the essay:**
- ▶ **Argument #1:**
- ▶ **Argument #2:**
- ▶ **Argument #3:**
- ▶ **Argument #4:**
- ▶ **Argument #5 :**
- ▶ **Key themes/significance:**

INTERACTIVE GROUP EXERCISES

- 1. Compare and contrast PM Pierre E. Trudeau and PM Brian Mulroney in their approach and policies with regards to Canadian-American relations. Who was more effective in advancing Canadian national interests?**
- 2. Discuss Canada's participation in the Cold War. What were some key factors shaping our foreign and defence policy over this period?**
- 3. Has there been a consistent Canadian approach towards the issue of foreign trade? Discuss with reference to 1854 to 1993.**
- 4. What role has “anti-Americanism” played in the shaping of Canadian foreign policy, 1812-2006?**
- 5. Assess Canada's commitment to global humanitarianism, 1945-2015.**

Q&A

- ▶ Questions?
- ▶ Feel free to speak to your TA or email tina.park@mail.utoronto.ca