

International Relations  
Spring 2010

**Directions:**

- Please put your Student ID number at the top of each page of your examination. **DO NOT** write your name anywhere on the examination.
- Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination.
- Submit a cover page with your responses that lists the following: ID number, type of exam completed (e.g. MA major, MA minor) and examination area, as well as the semester in which you are taking the exam.
- Cite sources throughout your essay, where appropriate, using standard format and provide a single bibliography that includes all the materials used in preparing your answers.
- Clearly label each answer with the number of question you are answering.
- Budget your time carefully, including time to think and organize while preparing and writing the answers. Focus on preparing coherent, well-organized essays that not only demonstrate your mastery of the literature, but also indicate how the literature expands our collective knowledge.
- Students are expected to work independently on this examination and not discuss the essay items and responses with others. Any questions about exam procedures should be directed to the convener.

MA Minors – please answer the question in Part A and one question from Part B

MA Majors – please answer the question in Part A and two questions from Part B

## Part A

Has the rationalist vs. constructivist debate in IR subsumed the broader debate about realism, liberalism, constructivism and Marxism? Explain the nature of this debate and discuss its significance for understanding international politics. Be sure to support your answer with regard to a particular problem in international politics.

## Part B

1. As international relations developed as a distinct field of inquiry, the study of war and conflict was at its core. Does this remain the case? Should this remain the case? In constructing your answer, be sure to discuss relevant trends in the IR literature.
2. Some theorists argue that the era of neo-liberal globalization has ended. Is this true or not? Why? Be sure to explain neo-liberal globalization in your answer.
3. Finnemore and Sikkink (IO, 1998:891) offer a basic definition of an international norm as “a standard of appropriate behavior for actors with a given identity.” In what way (if any) do norms have causal power in international politics? Discuss your answer with regard to specific authors and theories.
4. Does U.S. hegemony present a danger to the world? Why or why not? In answering this question, be sure to discuss Realist, Liberal, Marxist, and Constructivist understandings of the relationship between hegemony and interstate conflict.
5. Although self-interest is a guiding force in international politics, cooperative arrangements are commonplace in international politics. Why do states with divergent, self-interests frequently cooperate with one another? Please be sure to cite the relevant literature.

6. Feminist international relations theory has grown substantially in complexity and recognition over the past decade. J. Ann Tickner encapsulates the core content of these developments in the title of her 2001 book, *Gendering World Politics*. Discuss the main theoretical issues and ideas put forward by Tickner and other feminist IR scholars and assess their importance in current IR theory.
  
7. The state system has “organized” world politics since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. In your judgment, can this system continue to operate without catastrophic failure for the foreseeable future? If it can, what plausible modifications would you recommend for enhancing its stability? If it cannot, what plausible alternative system(s) do you recommend? Be detailed and precise in your response.