

International Relations
Spring 2011

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

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

PART A

It is common to approach debates in international relations by dividing the discipline into competing paradigms or theories (e.g., realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, constructivism, etc.). Evaluate the merits and drawbacks of this approach, discussing some examples of attempts to utilize this type of categorization.

PART B

1. Does the development of international relations since the end of the Cold War support or undermine what Geoffrey Blainey has dubbed “the grand old theory of international relations,” balance of power theory?
2. Discuss and evaluate the absolute v. relative gains debate in international relations.
3. What is the factor endowment of trade? How have scholars adapted it to make predictions concerning how the expansion or contraction of trade affects shifts in capabilities, divisions, and coalitions in domestic political economies? How has the possible impact of different governmental organizational arrangements (domestic institutions) been incorporated into the factor endowment framework?
4. What are some of the ways that International Relations scholars have posited that domestic politics influence international politics? Are these approaches useful for explaining important outcomes in international politics?
5. One implication of anarchy is that there is no central authority to enforce international agreements between states. Yet, states do comply with international law. Explain why. Make sure to cite the relevant literature.
6. Write an essay on the theory of neo-liberal globalization. Define each term, “neo-liberalism,” and “globalization,” and how the two may or may not be connected in the international political economy of the last 20 years.
7. What approaches to international relations help us understand the ferment and mass mobilizations in the Middle East? If international relations theory has no bearing on our observations, explain why such theory is irrelevant.