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 the 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.

MA Majors – please answer one question from each section for a total of four.

MA Minors – please answer three questions. You can select your three from any of the four sections but you cannot select more than one from a section.
Section A.
1. What is “selection bias?” Can it be overcome?

2. What is a case study, and is it the same as the Comparative Method?

Section B.
3. Is there a theoretical/conceptual core to “new institutionalism”? If there is, what is it? If not, why?

4. Why are “ideas” and “discourse” becoming so central to the “new institutionalism” literature?

Section C.
5. What are “some” of the variants of cultural theory? Identity specific methodological approaches of the variants you discuss.

6. Is a Macro-Theory of Violence possible? Or is violence best understood in the framework of mid-level or micro-level logics?

Section D.
7. Ethnicity has become a newly salient political issue in states where it previously took a back seat. In Western Europe some political parties and leaders have promoted a politics of resentment against non-European immigrants and their descendants. Race and ethnicity have become politicized in countries such as Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru as part of a strategy of low-income and marginalized groups to make a claim for greater power and resources. Discussing one or more countries or world regions, consider whether and how the place of ethnic identity is affecting politics. What theories or approaches can help us understand the political role of ethnicity?
8. Recently, the Occupy Wall Street movement has brought the issue of economic inequality to the fore in the United States and other countries. For decades there has been a persistent difference in policy patterns between some states, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, which choose more market-oriented policies and greater inequality, and others, such as Sweden and France, which choose more state intervention and less inequality. What theories or approaches can best help us explain longstanding differences over policy on economic inequality between countries?

9. In the last few decades—following the post-war “Golden Age” and in the face of globalization and the emergence of so-called “new social risks”—some have predicted the demise of the robust European welfare state, while others predicted a convergence around a single model of welfare provision, and still others rejected the proposition that states will substantially depart from the trajectory that they were on during the Golden Age. What theoretical perspectives underlie these alternative views?

10. What is Democratization? (is it an event, a process, a wave, a secretion of some endogenous kind, a diffusion of some exogenous type, or some combination of these?)