Ph.D. Examination in International Relations
Fall 2003

Directions: Your answers are due on Monday October 13, 2003. Ph.D. Majors must answer the question in Section A and three (3) questions from Section B. Ph.D. Minors must answer the question in Section A and two (2) questions from Part B. Focus on preparing coherent, well-organized essays that display your mastery of the literature and indicate how that literature expands our collective knowledge. Completed examinations should conform to the following guidelines:

☐ Place your student ID# at the top of each page of your examination. Do not write your name anywhere on the examination.

☐ Clearly identify the question you are answering at the start of each response.

☐ Cite sources throughout your examination using a standard format and provide a bibliography that covers all of the materials used in preparing your responses.

☐ Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination.

☐ Submit a cover page with your responses that lists your ID# and the type of exam you completed (e.g., MA Minor, MA Major, Ph.D. Major, Ph.D. Minor).

Section A
1. Do realist, liberal, constructivist, and Marxist theories of international relations focus on different actors (agents) in world politics? If so, how do they differ? If not, why not? Be sure to support your answer with reference to specific scholars and literatures and to draw out the implications of your analysis for the understanding of world politics.

Section B
1. Over the last few years international relations theorists have been debating the significance and consequence of anarchy. Some suggest that anarchy has defining consequences for state action and a determining logic, others suggest that there is no determining logic to anarchy or that there are myriad of forces that are equally constraining on state behavior. With reference to specific scholars, examples, and theories, describe each side of the debate. What is at stake theoretically in this debate?

2. The international relations buzzword of the post-Cold War era is “globalization.” Libraries are filled with books on the subject. Reflecting on the variety of definitions, explanations, and hypotheses in this literature suggest competing interpretations of globalization. Write an essay that compares, contrasts, and evaluates prominent approaches to the study of globalization.
3. Jan Jindy Pettman writes, in *Worlding Women: A feminist international politics* (Routledge, 1996): "Security' means very different things for most women than the meanings given to it by IR.... Women are located in particular and dangerous ways, both in discourses about war and in war politics on the ground. Violence, including state violence, is often sexualised. Feminist understandings and re-visions of security are by no means monolithic, but they do reveal war and peace as gendered processes, and suggest strategies for a more secure world." Do you agree that, "women are located in particular and dangerous ways" in the discourses and practices of war and/or that "violence is often sexualised?" If so, in what ways? If not, on what grounds? Be sure to discuss the implications of your argument for understanding world politics and to draw on relevant works in international relations theory, gender and IR, and feminist analyses of war and peace.

4. Write an essay describing competing interpretations of United States foreign policy in the twentieth century. What variables do competing theorists highlight in explaining the U.S. role in the world? What are the assessments of U.S. foreign policy embedded in these interpretations? Which approach is most useful for understanding the U.S. role in the world? Why?

5. 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.

6. With advancing nuclearization in North Korea and Iran, the problem of nuclear proliferation seems to be worsening. Given the constraints of international law, what is the international community’s best possible response to the spread of nuclear weapons? Shall it continue to rely on remedies based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or should it take steps to deal with the problem by supporting the use of force? Explain your answer fully, making sure to include references to preemption and anticipatory self-defense.
Master’s Examination in International Relations
Fall 2003

Directions: Your answers are due on Monday October 13, 2003. MA Majors must answer the question in Section A and two (2) questions from Section B. MA Minors must answer the question in Section A and one (1) question from Part B. Focus on preparing coherent, well-organized essays that display your mastery of the literature and indicate how that literature expands our collective knowledge. Completed examinations should conform to the following guidelines:

- Place your student ID# at the top of each page of your examination. Do not write your name anywhere on the examination.
- Clearly identify the question you are answering at the start of each response.
- Cite sources throughout your examination using a standard format and provide a bibliography that covers all of the materials used in preparing your responses.
- Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination.
- Submit a cover page with your responses that lists your ID# and the type of exam you completed (e.g., MA Minor, MA Major, Ph.D. Major, Ph.D. Minor).

Section A
1. Do realist, liberal, constructivist, and Marxist theories of international relations focus on different actors (agents) in world politics? If so, how do they differ? If not, why not? Be sure to support your answer with reference to specific scholars and literatures and to draw out the implications of your analysis for the understanding of world politics.

Section B
1. Write an essay comparing realist and idealist approaches to the international system. How do they explain international behavior and what do they see as the prospects for overcoming the world’s biggest problems? Make sure to include references to specific scholars and theories in your answer.

2. In a prominent article, “International Institutions,” Robert Keohane discusses “two approaches.” Compare and contrast the two approaches Keohane identifies and discuss each one’s strengths and weaknesses. Finally, place the “institutional approach” within the broader literature on norms in international politics.
3. Have the events of September 11, 2001, the subsequent “wars on terrorism,” and the on-going war in Iraq “changed the world of international politics? If so, how so, and to what extent? If not, on what grounds do you come to your conclusion? What theory or theories of international politics appear to be most relevant in explaining current events and trends? What accounts for the superiority of the theory or theories you selected?

4. International law can be identified as a particular strategy for world order reform. In your judgment, what are the essential components of an improved world order and how might international law assist in bringing them about? In reference to world order reform, would international law function more effectively in an increasingly centralized global system of power and sovereign authority? Should we be moving toward the creation of a world government?

5. Write an essay describing competing interpretations of U.S. foreign policy in the 20th Century. What variables do competing theorists highlight in explaining the U.S. role in the world? Which approach is most useful for understanding U.S. actions on the global stage?

6. Is the “Prisoner’s Dilemma” a useful metaphor for understanding interstate relations? Why or why not? Should scholars continue to rely on the Prisoner’s Dilemma or should they emphasize different “games,” such as Chicken and Stag Hunt, in their analyses? Alternatively, should scholars abandon game theory as a tool for understanding world politics? Be sure to explain your answers fully and to include references to specific scholars and theories in your answer.
MASTER'S PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SPRING 2003

Student ID#

Directions: Write an essay on Part A and two (2) questions from Part B.

PART A:

International Relations scholarship has been dominated for a long time by the competing paradigms of Realism, Liberalism, and Marxism. More recently, we have seen the emergence of feminist and constructivist analysis. Should these new approaches be seen primarily as alternatives to or supplements to the more dominant perspectives? Explain fully.

PART B:

1. In the ongoing pursuit of “wars on terrorism” by the U.S. government, intense indignation about the treatment of women under fundamentalist rule in Afghanistan peaked in government pronouncements and the media shortly after the events of 9/11, but has now largely faded from view. It may be argued that this pattern of attention and inattention to women and gender issues was predictable based on feminist analysis of gender in international politics, but not by other perspectives in IR theory. Explain and discuss fully.

2. “In the world of socially constructed international institutions, communication matters. State leaders, global (businesses), non-governmental activists, even the occasional international relations scholar, influence each other’s understanding of their own ‘interests’ and of the moral and social world in which they live.” – Craig Murphy (“Global Governance: Poorly Done and Poorly Understood,” International Affairs 76, 4 (2000)" 797). Discuss the statement above. What are the relative capacities of international institutions and non-state actors to define states’ understanding of their interests? What are their mechanisms of influence? Refer to specific authors and arguments in your answer.

3. In the final analysis, genocide and genocide-like crimes are the product of individual human deficiencies and inclinations. Are these deficiencies remediable, or must an improved world order require new structural alterations of international relations? Be sure that your answer identifies pertinent deficiencies and inclinations, and that it clarifies, in detail, the nature of proposed behavioral and/or structural changes.

4. In an influential essay, Robert Keohane argues that three assumptions constitute the “hard core” of the Realist research program. What are the three inviolable assumptions Keohane identifies? Based on your knowledge of Realist theory and research, do you agree that Keohane’s list of assumptions defines the hard core of Realism? Why or why not? Be sure to illustrate your answer with specific examples from the literature produced by the Realists.
5. Ever since Waltz’s MAN, THE STATE AND WAR, students of international relations have thought about different theories of war in terms of their level of analysis. Does the levels of analysis approach help clarify or obscure the important issues?

6. Masses of protesters have assembled to challenge “neoliberalism” in the international political economy at Seattle, Quebec City, Davos (Switzerland), New York, Washington D.C., and wherever global economic elites meet. What do these protesters mean by “neoliberalism?” Explain in detail.