Ph.D. Examination in International Relations
Fall 2005

Directions: Your answers are due on Monday, October 10, 2005. Ph.D. Majors must answer the question in Section A and three (3) questions from Section 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 examination your completed (e.g. MA Minor, MA Major, Ph.D. Minor, Ph.D. Major).

Section A

While virtually all overviews of the discipline include realism and liberalism as the most influential perspectives on international relations, there is less consensus on the alternatives to these two dominant approaches. Some continue to see Marxism and the most significant alternative, while a few more recent surveys have replaced Marxism with constructivism. And while feminism is occasionally mentioned, it is seldom considered on par with Marxism and constructivism. Write an essay in which you evaluate these three alternatives to realism and liberalism, focusing on the question of which, if any, of these approaches deserves to be viewed as a coherent alternative to realism and liberalism. Be sure to refer to specific authors and their works.

Section B

1. 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.

2. Susan Hawthorne and Bronwyn Winter, in the introduction to their anthology, September 11, 2001: Feminist Perspectives, tell us that in the ongoing climate of war, terrorism, and counter-terror, feminist voices and feminist analysis have been "alarmingly lacking in public fora." Why do Hawthorne and Winter find the lack of feminist voices and analysis in public spaces, press, and media "alarming"? Based on your knowledge of feminist IR theory and readings on gender and the "wars on terror," what insights could feminist analysis contribute to our understanding of terror, counter-terror, and the war in Iraq today? Would you agree that the lack of attention to such voices is a matter for "alarm" in regard to the prospects for overcoming terrorism and war? Explain the grounds for your conclusion.
3. The authoritative sources of international law are listed at Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. Recalling these precise sources, identify particular ways in which each source might contribute to the prevention of nuclear terrorism and nuclear war. For example, how might treaties be used to more effectively prevent such forms of atomic destruction? Do we need more treaties, better treaties? Be sure to answer fully, with carefully fashioned and well reasoned arguments that support your jurisprudential examples.

4. As the dominant approach to international relations, realism has been subjected to some withering criticisms over the years. Despite these critiques, many would argue, although others would disagree, that realism remains the dominant perspective. At the very least, it remains resilient. How would you explain, or account for, the resilience of realism?

5. Write an essay that defines globalization and discusses the major theoretical assessments and empirical studies of its effects and potential effects, both positive and negative.

6. There have been many attempts to explain rule-governed behavior in international politics. How do constructivist approaches that emphasize socially shared norms compare in explanatory power with rationalist approaches that emphasize interests and incentives in accounting for regularities in behavior? Be sure to refer in your answer to specific authors and works.
Ph.D. Examination in International Relations
Spring 2005

Directions: Your answers are due on Monday, March 14, 2005. 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. One of the perennial concerns of international relations theory is the relationship between domestic structures/institutions and the international behavior of states. Compare and contrast how realists, liberals, constructivists and Marxists deal with this question.

Section B

1. Did the alliance/alignment patterns of the Cold War confirm or contradict balance of power theory?

2. As Finnemore and Sikkink note, “we can have only indirect evidence of [international] norms just as we have only indirect evidence of most other motivations for political action.” If this is the case, what is a norm, and how do we evaluate whether a norm exists or not? Be sure to refer to specific authors and works in your answer.

3. Does U.S. hegemony present a danger to the world? Why or why not? In answering this question, be sure to discuss Realist, Liberal, Historical materialist (Marxist), and Constructivist understandings of the relationship between hegemony and interstate conflict. Be sure to support your answer with reference to specific scholars and literature and to draw out the implications of your analysis for the understanding of terrorism.
4. Professor Sage has argued that "...the collapse of the Cold War international system has allowed the forces of neoliberal globalization to penetrate each and every nation-state in the international system." Write an essay elaborating on what Professor Sage is talking about. Do you agree with him or not? Why?

5. It is increasingly likely that the United States will become the target of WMD terrorism. The consequences of such an attack – involving chemical, biological and/or nuclear weapons – could be staggering and even unprecedented. With this in mind, should our government now expand plans for preemptive attacks against the most likely perpetrators – attacks that might be defended under international law as expressions of “anticipatory self-defense?” If so, how would you identify the optimal strategy for the United States? Should this strategy be coordinated with other states and/or the United Nations? What about particular states that give aid to likely WMD terrorism perpetrators? Should they be targeted directly? Would such resorts to individual and/or collective self-defense be consistent with international law? Explain fully.

6. Discuss J. Ann Tickner’s statement that “by more clearly illuminating aspects of gender inequality that contribute to militarism, structural violence, and violence against nature, feminist perspectives enrich our understanding of the interrelationships of these various forms of insecurity.” Drawing on a variety of writings and examples that may support or contradict Tickner’s position, explain her statement and discuss its validity.
International Relations
Masters Exam
Spring 2006

Directions: This is a 48-hour examination. **MA majors** – Answer the question from Section A and two (2) questions from Section B. **MA minors** – Answer the question from Section A and one (1) question from Section 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 examination your completed (e.g. MA Minor, MA Major, Ph.D. Minor, Ph.D. Major).

Section A

The question of how states maintain cooperative relationships under anarchy is a central puzzle for students of international relations. Which of the major theoretical approaches (realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism) is the most useful for understanding international cooperation and which is the least useful? Explain, referring to specific theories and authors in your answer.

Section B

1. 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 (e.g., more centralized institutions for collective security or world government)? 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.

2. Several recent studies have sought to understand whether treaties “make a difference” in governments’ human rights behavior. Others focus more broadly on the power of norms. What do we know, or think we know, about the theoretical and actual role of formal and informal norms in countries’ human rights behavior? Answer with regard to specific works and their relation to broader theories of international politics.
3. Were the patterns of international alignment during the Cold War consistent or inconsistent with the predictions of balance of power theory?

4. The literature on international political economy argues that most states have embraced economic policies referred to as "neo-liberal." These policies, much of the literature suggests, have been encouraged or enforced by significant international economic organizations and collections of industrial capitalist states. Write an essay on the meaning and significance of "neo-liberalism" for the contemporary international political economy. What is it? From where in the history of economic thought does it come? What are the most familiar neo-liberal policies? What international institutions insist that states adopt such policies? What have been the main consequences of neo-liberalism for international life?

5. In a recent article ("Soft Balancing Against the United States," *International Security* 30, 1 [Summer 2005]: 7-45), Robert Pape argues that the foreign policy strategy pursued by the current Bush administration is "one of the most aggressively unilateral US national security strategies ever" (p.7-8). What, if any, are the likely consequences of a hegemon’s pursuit of a unilateral strategy for the way the current international system is governed? Be sure to support your answer with reference to specific scholars and literatures and explain the reasoning behind your response.

6. "The terrorist is the logical incarnation of patriarchal politics in a technological world" (Robin Morgan, *The Demon Lover: On the Sexuality of Terrorism*, 1990, p.33). Explain the meaning of this statement as elaborated by Morgan, and discuss its significance in the broader context of feminist IR theory. In your response, consider the similarities and differences between the views expressed by Morgan and those of other writers on gender, terrorism, and the so-called "wars on terrorism."