Directions:

- Please put your NEW 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. Please list the semester the examination is taken as well.

- 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

Cooperation is an important concept in the study of international relations, but the major paradigms (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Marxism/Historical Materialism) may lead to differing assessments of the potential for international cooperation. Select three of these paradigms for discussion. How does each one assess the prospects for international cooperation? Do they agree or disagree with one another? Which of the approaches to understanding the prospects for cooperation do you see as most convincing and why? Be sure to discuss the implications of your analysis for the understanding of world politics, supporting your answer with reference to specific scholars and literatures.

Part B

1. Should realism be seen as a "theory" of international relations? If so, what are its key elements? If realism is not a theory of international relations, what is it?

2. International law is a more or less viable strategy in securing “world order.” Beginning with a carefully developed and productive definition of world order, write an essay in which you then explain how international law can best ensure our long-term planetary well being and survival. Be sure to begin with an explicit hypothesis, and to characterize carefully the relevant institutions and processes of international law.

3. 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.

4. Increasingly, the line between international relations and comparative politics has become blurred. International relations scholars have been employing state-level variables, such as domestic political incentives and institutional constraints to explain international phenomena, such as conflict. What theoretical developments account for this trend? Is this trend in international relations theory appropriate?

5. By all accounts, the United States and the global political economy are going through an economic crisis potentially as deep as the Great Depression of the 1930s. If a field called “international relations” is to have any use value for
scholars, students, and policymakers, it should be able to make a contribution to understanding the nature, causes, dynamics, and possible cures of such a global crisis. Write an essay, utilizing the literature of international relations to understand and explain the economic and political crisis that we face in 2009. Is there any international relations literature that can help us as scholars and policymakers understand this crisis? What is missing from the literature? Elaborate.

6. In his 2004 article (“Frameworks for Conceptualizing Terrorism” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol.16, No.2, pp.197-221), Alex Schmid argues that there are five ways to conceptualize terrorism: 1. as crime; 2. as politics; 3. as warfare; 4. as communication; and 5. as religious fundamentalism. Which of these frameworks do you consider best for understanding terrorist activity? Why do you think this framework is better than the others for understanding the behavior of terrorist organizations? In answering this question, be sure to associate each of the approaches with relevant authors and works and to discuss specific evidence in support of your arguments.

7. Two decades ago, Robert Keohane distinguished between two approaches to the study of international institutions, referring to “rationalistic” and “reflective” approaches. (Keohane, “International Institutions: Two Approaches,” *ISQ* 32 (4):379-96.) Many of the themes of his essay persist in the debate over the merits of rationalism versus constructivism as general approaches to understanding international politics. How do rationalist and constructivist approaches to international relations differ, particularly with regard to international institutions? What is at stake in the rationalist-constructivist debate? Answer with regard to specific authors and works.

8. Professor Smith is a passionate supporter of the theory of political realism as a guide to explaining international and intra-national violence. Professor Jones is equally passionate in his belief that Marxist theory provides the best explanation for these phenomena. Write an essay that explains the central precepts of the theory of political realism and Marxist theory as they relate to war between states and violence within states. What are the variables central to each theory? How do they work? In what ways do they differ? What are their similarities?