International Relations
Fall 2013

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

Some realists argue that anarchy and the threat of military conflict are permanent features of world politics standing as barriers to solving global problems. Liberals and others, by contrast, see logical and empirical flaws in the realist argument, seeing much greater scope for global solutions even within the context of anarchy. Using the relevant literature, evaluate this debate.

Part B

1. International ferment from Arab Spring, the formation of the BRICS, the rise of the Bolivarian Revolution, and the expanding global economic role of countries such as China, Brazil, and India indicate that the international system is being transformed from one dominated by a hegemonic power to one based on a complex diversity of competing regional associations, states, and social movements. Write an essay drawing upon relevant literature in international relations that addresses the 21st century international system in transition.

2. The complexity of international relations may require application of a multi-method approach. Choose a phenomenon and suggest several (at least three) methodological approaches to deal with it. Critically point out the advantages and disadvantages of each methodology.

3. Given that there is no central authority to enforce agreements among sovereign states, why do states arrive at agreements that avert war? Moreover, why do they cooperate on a variety of issues? Discuss the problems of anarchy for international conflict and cooperation and detail the theoretical mechanisms thought to overcome these problems.

4. You have been asked by the editors of the forthcoming Handbook of International Relations to provide the entry for "Democratic Peace Theory." It should be no longer than 12 double-spaced pages including a briefly annotated bibliography (which can be single-spaced) of 8-10 items that readers can use as a basis for further reading. The entry should discuss the relevant theory, empirical evidence and critiques.

5. Both balance of power theory and preponderance theory (or power transition theory) have been associated with realism. What are the main similarities and differences between these theories? In what sense can they both viewed as realist theories?

6. Oswald Spengler, in Volume II of The Decline of the West, inquires: "Can a desperate faith in knowledge free us from the nightmare of the grand questions?" In your judgment, (a) What precise sort of knowledge is required for a more complete understanding of international relations and world politics? (b) Is this required sort of knowledge best described as "science," or as something else? (c) What are the basic concepts, elements, and assumptions of this needed sort of knowledge? and (d) What are the genuinely "grand questions" of international relations and world politics? Answer fully, in a coherent and comprehensive essay.
7. What role, if any, does public opinion play in international relations? In answering this question, be sure to discuss significant debates over the importance of public opinion in foreign affairs and to reference specific authors and theories.

8. Is constructivism a theory or a method? Discuss with reference to relevant literature, comparing and contrasting with at least two of the following approaches to international politics: Realism, Liberalism, Marxism.

9. In what way do international norms facilitate or hinder cooperation in international politics? Discuss, using relevant references to the scholarly literature and empirical examples.