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

In a recent article, John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt argue that a turn away from theory in International Relations is hurting the field ("Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing is Bad for International Relations," European Journal of International Relations 19:3 [2013]). Although theory, guided by the great -isms in International Relations (IR) -- Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, and Constructivism -- is the field's "lodestone," they argue that attention to theory in IR is declining. Assess Mearsheimer and Walt's argument, making sure to illustrate your perspective with references to specific articles or books. Has the field of IR become less oriented toward theory? If so, in your view, what are some important areas where theory could be strengthened? If not, what is causing Mearsheimer and Walt to misperceive the state of the art in the field? In your answer, be as specific as you can with regard to approaches and authors.

Part B

1. I went into the British Army believing that if you want peace you must prepare for war. I now believe that if you prepare thoroughly for war you will get it.

   - Sir John Frederick Maurice
   British military officer, 1883

This quote illustrates the tension between competing worldviews of international relations. Briefly summarize the essential differences between these alternative perspectives. How does each perspective believe that peace and security can be maintained? How did the three great 20th century conflicts (WWI, WWII, and the Cold War) affect these perspectives and what will be the effect of the end of the Cold War on the competition between these two worldviews?

2. The network concept has been used widely to explain international activity oriented toward constructive change in various issue areas, such as human rights, the global status of women, and the environment. Especially since Keck and Sikkink’s pioneering work, Activists across Borders (1998), focus on non-state actors in international politics has increased and changed. Some authors criticize early authors for focusing only on groups or networks that “do good,” and some criticize the assumption that nongovernmental organizations are somehow more altruistic than other kinds of political actors. In addition, other researchers have applied the network concept equally to actors such as criminal and terror networks that are clandestine and employ “private violence.” Assess the transnational advocacy network concept and its critics. Is there anything special about issue advocacy for “nice” causes?

3. Given that there is no central authority to enforce agreements among sovereign states, why do states cooperate? Discuss the problems of anarchy for international cooperation and detail the theoretical mechanisms thought to overcome these problems.
4. Many international political economists argue that there is an intimate connection between the new phenomenon, globalization, and the neoliberal policy agenda practiced by international financial institutions, big states, trade regimes, and assistance programs. Write an essay that defines and describes "neoliberal globalization." What is globalization? What is neoliberalism? What are the proclaimed connections between the two in the 21st century?

5. Noted scholar/activist Noam Chomsky, in a recent essay, proclaimed that citizens of most nation-states regard the United States as the biggest threat to their survival. Why would international observers of the United States regard it as a threat to global stability and security? After developing the claims, whether you agree or not, evaluate them.

6. Is state sovereignty challenged by the principle of human rights? Please make the realist case for a negative answer to the question, and choose one other IR paradigm of your choice to make a case for a positive answer. Cite the relevant literature for each, and conclude by explaining which answer you find most compelling and why.

7. In their influential work on casualties and war support, Scott Gartner and Gary Segura note that “the influence of wartime casualties on public opinion has been identified as the central tenet of democratic peace arguments” (1998, 279). Certainly this has been the operative assumption in Washington DC, where beliefs about the public’s sensitivity to American casualties frequently makes Presidents cautious about the use of force. Yet, not everyone is convinced that Americans are sensitive to wartime casualties. Assess the evidence for and against the claim that casualties are a central influence on the public’s support for the use of force.

8. Realists often associate with the claim that international institutions are insignificant for understanding international politics, but this is not the only Realist position on international institutions. Discuss the debate within Realism about international institutions and their influence on international affairs. In your judgment, which Realist argument about institutions is the most convincing and why?

9. How well do neoliberal institutionalist, constructivist and realist theories fare in explaining global political developments since the Cold War ended? Which theories fare better at explaining what sorts of developments and worse explaining other kinds of changes? In your response, make sure you address one of the following issues: alliance patterns among the major global powers; shifts in the global distribution of economic power; the war on terror; or efforts to establish an effective international regime to limit global climate change.