International Relations
Fall 2012

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

The major paradigms/theories in international relations are often compared in terms of how they explain conflict among states. But perhaps just as important is how they approach cooperation among states. Compare and contrast realist, liberal and constructivist efforts to account for international cooperation.

PART B

1. As Finnemore and Sikkink noted in a key discussion of international relations research on norms, “we can have only indirect evidence of [international] norms just as we have only indirect evidence of most other motivations for political action (interests or threats, for example)” (*International Organization* 52, 4 [1998]: 892). If this is the case, how can a norm be identified, and how do we evaluate whether a norm is influential or not? Be sure to refer to specific authors and works in your answer.

2. Write an essay on the theory of neoliberal globalization. How do theorists such as David Harvey, William Robinson, William Tabb, Noam Chomsky, Susan George and others describe it? What consequences do these theorists suggest neoliberal globalization has had for global political economy and violence since the 1980s?

3. The French poet, Saint-John Perse, writes: "I learn a science from the soul's aggressions." If we were to take the poet's meaning here of "science" to be "political science," what could be learned? Is it conceivably helpful for students and scholars to use the word "soul?" Freud certainly would have answered "yes," but it is also a plainly unscientific concept. Could a wider intellectual understanding of individual human inclinations to "aggress" forge a promising path to an improved discipline of political science? Explain fully, with reference to pertinent literature and concepts.

4. The concept of collective security has been much maligned by realists of all stripes. Discuss these realist arguments. Can collective security be construed as a power-based (i.e., “realist”) argument?

5. You have been invited to contribute an essay to a new edited volume on key concepts and theories in international relations. Your topic is “neorealism.” You have been given no more than ten pages to discuss/summarize its main elements/variants, the state of empirical research, and the major criticisms leveled against it.