

**International Relations
Preliminary Examination
Fall 2005**

RULES AND DIRECTIONS: You will have eight hours in which to answer the required questions. **The exam must be handed in no later than 4 p.m.** Be sure to save some of your time for putting the answers into an organized, typed or legibly written version in good English. Also be sure that you answer all the parts of each question, that your answers draw upon and specifically refer to relevant literature, and that your answers address the questions and are not repetitive. This is a “closed book” exam. Students may not use notes or books, nor may they discuss the examination with anyone while taking it.

Answer one question from part A and two questions from part B. Please read the instructions for part B carefully.

Part A: Thematic Questions

Answer one (1) of the following questions:

1. How have various strands of political realism shaped international relations theory? What are the principal strengths and weaknesses of these strands for explaining and/or understanding world politics?
2. Are rationalism and constructivism incommensurable or compatible approaches?
3. Is the traditional narrative of the history of international relations as a discipline accurate or helpful? What are the implications for the study and practice of international relations?

Part B: Seminar Questions

Answer two (2) of the following questions:

The questions in this section raise issues that cut across courses that you have taken. Thus, they are intended to bridge different literatures. In writing a 'bridging' essay, be sure to draw explicitly on both literatures. Answer two of the following questions. Minimize duplication across your essays.

1. How do critical approaches to the study of political economy inform the theorization of international law?
2. Compliance with international norms and rules is a question of central interest to legal scholars and scholars of international organizations. Summarize what the different IO and International Law authors mean by compliance, and highlight the arguments different authors make about the conditions under which states will comply with global norms and institutions.
3. International organizations and international law are little more than instruments of the powerful. Do you agree?
4. Discuss and contrast the understanding of the nature and role of international law in critical political economy studies (and by legal scholars informed by critical theory, such as Balakrishnana Rajagopal) with those of constructivist scholars who argue that law has greater potential for transformation of existing structures.
5. How might theories of international organizations be enhanced by integrating critical approaches to international political economy? Is the concept of legitimacy important for understanding the effectiveness and durability of international organizations and international law?