

Instructions: This is an open book exam for which you have eight hours. Answer one question from the Theory section and one question from each of any other two sections. Be sure your answers refer specifically to relevant literatures. Be sure also that your answers do not use the same basic literature for more than one question. Please be careful to address the actual question that is asked.

THEORY:

- 1) How is order possible in anarchy? This very question, in many respects, drives much of contemporary international relations theory. But the issue of order in international relations can be understood as a subset of the general problem of order. At least Kenneth Boulding thought so. Boulding proposed that there are three social mechanisms that produce order among members of a group: exchange systems, which emphasize rewards and incentives; threat systems, which emphasize punishments; and image integration, which work at the level of shared interests and perceptions. In this essay reflect on this trichotomy as it pertains to (a) how the different theoretical approaches might conceptualize the "problem" of order, and (b) the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches.
- 2) Some scholars have argued for something of a division-of-labor to international politics. From neo-realists and neo-liberals we recognize that states pursue their preferences in a strategic and anarchic context; these theories are pretty good at telling us about the environmental context that influences how states pursue their already established interests. Other theories noted that states did not have uniform preferences, and that to understand the source of these heterogeneous preferences it is important to look at domestic politics. Therefore, we examine some theories to understand the source of state preferences, and then once we know what those preferences are, we turn to systemic theories like neo-realism and neo-liberalism to see how states interact and strategize to pursue those preferences. What do you make of this division-of-labor argument? Which theories are best able to account for the sources of preferences? Do these systemic theories tell us what we need to know about the environmental context that shapes state behavior?

WORLD ORDERS:

- 1) What are the different theoretical traditions for thinking about global governance? Review and critique their strengths and weaknesses.
- 2) Is the analysis of identity in conflict with that of economic inequality in theorizing the production of world orders?

POLITICAL ECONOMY:

- 1) How important is the rationality assumption in the study of political economy? Does the study of political economy itself shed light on the rationality assumption?
- 2) Are the politics of globalization more usefully viewed through a lens of resolving *efficiency* problems of collective action or alternatively through the playing out of *redistributive* concerns?

NORMS AND INSTITUTIONS:

- 1) Scholars of international organizations have heavily drawn from microeconomics and public choice to generate various arguments regarding the function, design, and effectiveness of international organizations. What are the different ways in which scholars of IO have drawn from these literatures to inform basic features of international organizations? What are some of their strengths and weaknesses?
- 2) Several years ago Robert Keohane lamented that we actually have very little evidence that international organizations and institutions accomplish their tasks. Is that observation still true? If so, why? If not, why not?

FOREIGN POLICY:

- 1) Is it the case that political psychology is germane only to crisis decision making and of marginal relevance for understanding foreign policy more broadly? Why or why not? Be sure your answer displays awareness of the political psychology literature on foreign policy by referring to studies, key constructs, key arguments, and key topics of concern within the political psychology realm of the foreign policy literature.
- 2) Do democracies and autocracies have systematically different foreign policies that we can identify? Are there implications of your answer for systemic theorizing and for the analysis of individual decision-making?

SECURITY:

- 1) How relevant is the large literature on alliances in explaining the interaction between states and non-state actors?
- 2) Is the difference between deterrence theory and the 'security dilemma' really one of interpretation? Can theories about beliefs and norms bridge this gap or are these theories irreconcilable?