

Instructions: This is an open book exam for which you have eight hours. Answer one question from the theory section and answer one question from each of two other sections; you are answering three questions in all. 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.

Theory

1. What IR theory best explains patterns of conflict and cooperation in contemporary world politics? Defend your answer with reference to other IR theories.
2. How does one account for the persistence of rationality assumptions in IR theorizing, and what has been accomplished in the field within that genre of IR theorizing?

Security

3. Some hail globalization as ushering in an era of relative interstate and intrastate peace. Others see globalization as a destabilizing force, exacerbating existing tensions and creating new ones. Still others see globalization as much ado about nothing. What effects do you expect the processes associated with globalization to have on international and national peace and security? Please do also make reference to relevant empirical evidence in answering this question.
4. Based on an analysis of the literature on the causes of terrorism, is the Bush administration's "war on terrorism" likely to increase or decrease the likelihood of additional attacks on the US?

World Order

5. Are all world orders sacrificial orders? Why or why not? How does the literature help us assess this question?
6. How can theories of power politics and theories of identity/difference be brought into conversation with each other so as to improve the discipline's understanding of the production of world orders?

International organizations, institutions, law

7. For the last two decades most theories of international relations have been concerned with how states come together to create international organizations and institutions. But they have remarkably little to say about what happens after creation and whether and how they are successful at what they do. This assertion introduces the question, which is the next paragraph

Please discuss what the theories of IO have to say about IO creation, whether (and why) most IO theories are biased toward the moment of creation, and which approaches might offer a better way to think about IOs after creation and whether in fact IOs are any good at doing what they are created to do.

8. Recently Jupillie, Caporaso, and Checkel wrote that there exist four different ways for thinking about the relationship between different theories: (a) competitive hypothesis testing, something of a gladiatorial, winner-take-all contest; (b) domain of application, suggesting that different theories have different strengths and that we should rely on a division-of-labor; (c) sequencing, where we can periodize the causal chain and reserve particular periods for particular sequences; and (d) subsumption, where theoretical progress comes from some sort of synthesis and unified theory.

Choose a specific substantive area of IO. Within the area you have chosen (1) explore these four possibilities; (2) evaluate which option appears most to fit best; and (3) discuss the implications for sustaining and developing different theoretical bodies given your answer to (2).

Foreign Policy

9. What theory of international relations or American foreign policy best explains the foreign policy pursued by the Bush administration since 9/11? When answering this question be sure to consider alternative explanations.
10. The IR literature has a long tradition of wondering why what seems to have been a regrettable choice was made in important international situations. How do political psychology studies of foreign policy look at this question, what change has happened over the past 25 years in that particular strand of literature, and why should this inquiry continue or not continue?

Political Economy

11. Many political economists understand economic policies from the perspective of economic preferences. Many people who focus on security issues do so from the perspective of national security. What would be the effect of reversing these, so that security policy is understood on the basis of economic preferences and economic policies are understood on the basis of national security?

12. What is at stake in describing today's global political economy as Empire as distinct from globalization?