

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. Compare the contributions and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of realist, liberal and constructivists perspectives in terms of explaining the existence of cooperation in the international system.
2. The 'rationality' assumption is often assumed to preclude emotion, normative concerns, false consciousness, and bounded cognitive capacity. How have various approaches to international relations employed these 'non-rational' motivations and do they fully undermine rational choice approaches to international relations?

World Orders

1. What is the relationship between world order and human rights and/or humanitarianism?
2. How or how not is Marxist theory relevant to the theorization of contemporary world order?

Norms and Institutions

1. Can international organizations socialize states?
2. Much theory on international norms and institutions disregards the importance of regional factors and of domestic regime type for explaining the practice or effectiveness of international institutions. Recent research, by authors such as Simmons, Morrow, Hathaway, and others suggest that both region and regime type may be an important factor explaining both treaty ratification and compliance with international law. Review the finding of some of this recent research, and discuss how the study of international institutions would be affected by incorporating domestic and regional factors.

International Security

1. The balance of power is one of the oldest concepts of international relations, yet its definition and the explanations for balancing behavior remain highly contested. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the recent literature on balancing and the balance of power? What light do they shed, if any, on recent developments in international politics?
2. How valuable are theories of deterrence and compellence, as either descriptive or normative theory? Is the analytical framework useful with regard to potentially violent non-state actors?

Foreign Policy

1. How useful are psychological theories of decision-making in foreign policy given the impossibility of recreating experimentally the conditions under which foreign policy decisions are made?
2. Is the assumption of a unitary state actor one that obviates the need to discuss foreign policy?

International Political Economy

1. What, if anything, is the distinct role in the discipline of International Political Economy for theory and analysis that is designated as 'critical'. Is it useful to retain and use that adjective? How so, or why not?
2. International political economists have used studies of the developed world to develop a broad literature examining the impact of globalization on public policies and individual preferences. Can this literature tell us anything about the developing world's experience with globalization? Why or why not?