

**RULES AND DIRECTIONS:** You will have eight hours in which to answer the required questions. **The exam must be handed in no later than 4:00 p.m.** Be sure to save some of your time for putting your answers into an organized, typed or legibly written version in good English. Also be sure that you answer all the parts of each question and that you refer to the appropriate scholarly literature in each answer. This is a “closed book” exam. Students may not use notes or books, nor may they discuss the examination with anyone while taking it.

**Important:** Be sure that you choose your questions in order to demonstrate the breadth as well as the depth of your knowledge. It is your responsibility to ensure that your selection of questions and answers to them are distinctive and do not contain undue overlap and repetition.

Please answer one question from Part I, and two questions from Part II.

### **THEMATIC QUESTIONS**

#### **PART I:**

Write one (1) of the following essays.

1. What are the key assumptions of the regression model? Which of these assumptions is most often violated in actual research? Are these violations serious? Why or why not?
2. Discuss the issues of reliability and validity in qualitative research. What can be done to enhance the reliability of qualitative research while maintaining its validity?

## SEMINAR QUESTIONS

### **PART II:**

Write two (2) of the following essays.

1. Discuss the evolution and importance of different equilibrium concepts in game theory. In each case, explain the value-added of each equilibrium refinement and how each advanced the ability to capture strategic behavior, demonstrating your points with reference to the political science literature.
2. Using Robert Groves' (1989) conceptual structure of sources of error in surveys, describe how you would design as "error proof" of a survey as possible, while keeping in mind time and cost constraints (i.e., don't assume unlimited resources to conduct the survey). Describe each type of error, why it is a problem for surveys, and what you would do to decrease the error and why (with citations to the survey literature).
3. Describe some of the circumstances where it is preferable to use a structural models/simultaneous equation model instead of a single-equation model. When is it "safe" to use OLS estimation in a structural model and how can we tell? What are some of the difficulties when we use more complex models? Be sure to consider the identification problem and the often-arbitrary decisions we make about which variables are exogenous.
4. Perhaps the toughest problem that can undermine the value of data from in-depth open-ended interviewing and participant-observation is the inevitable influence of the researcher's identity upon subjects' responses. Please outline the forms this problem can take (with concrete examples from published research where possible) and discuss the best practical techniques for dealing with them.