

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Program of International Studies

Spring 2015

DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME OR STUDENT NUMBER ON YOUR EXAM

Instructions: Ph.D. students have eight (8) hours to complete the exam and must answer the mandatory and three (3) optional questions. M.A. students have four (4) hours and must answer the mandatory and two (2) optional questions. Note: you may answer only one question from any optional group. The exam will begin promptly at 9 am at the Math Computer Lab (Merrick Building Room 307). You must email your exam to Dr. Yaffe (l.yaffe@umiami.edu) immediately upon completion.

Mandatory Question

1. According to Benjamin Cohen “beyond an interest in marrying International Economics and International Relations, there is no consensus at all on what, precisely, International Political Economy (IPE) is about.” What does Cohen mean? In your essay, be sure to discuss how the field has evolved since its inception in the 1970s, not only in the United States and Great Britain but also in other regions of the world.

Optional Questions

Economics and security

2. Does trade interdependence and global economic integration facilitate or mitigate conflict in world politics? Discuss the Classical Liberal, Mercantilist, and Marxist views on this issue. In your essay, refer also to the more recent evolution of empirical research addressing this question. What do the findings show? What are the main casual mechanisms through which economic interdependence is hypothesized to influence the prospects of conflict/peace?
3. The post-Cold War period saw a significant increase in the use of economic sanctions. How “effective” have these instruments of economic statecraft been? Under what conditions are economic sanctions more likely to work? In your answer, discuss contending theoretical perspectives and empirical research on this topic. Provide empirical evidence in support of your arguments.

Globalization and the state

4. Is globalization a threat to the Westphalia state system? Write an essay explaining the main arguments and perspectives in this debate. Focus specifically on the effects of economic globalization on state autonomy and policy convergence /divergence, incorporating theoretical insights and empirical evidence from the recent International and Comparative Political Economy literatures on this issue.
5. The literature on financial globalization emphasizes the structural constraints that increased capital mobility places on the economic policy autonomy of national governments. According to

the “Capital Mobility Hypothesis,” the ever-present threat of capital flight creates irresistible pressures for a convergence of national macroeconomic policies. Others challenge these views. Discuss and explain the most influential scholars and the main theoretical positions in this debate. Which perspective provides a clearer picture of macroeconomic policy outcomes in developed and developing countries in the contemporary international financial system?

Foreign economic policy

6. Scholars of comparative and international political economy have debated the extent to which societal factors play a relevant role in the formulation of monetary and exchange rate policy. Jeffrey Frieden’s seminal sectoral approach emphasizes the domestic distributional implications of currency policy choices and the incentives these provide for the mobilization of specific groups in favor or against specific policy decisions. Explain the logic and theoretical predictions of this approach and discuss its main strengths and weaknesses. How useful is this model in explaining the recent exchange rate policy choices of the US and China? Can competing theoretical perspectives, namely institutionalist and ideational approaches, provide a more adequate account? Why or why not?

European Union

7. The latest appearance of economic "mega-regional trade-agreements" is the planned Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the European Union and the United States. What is its context and timing? Why now? What could be the impact on existing or evolving regional deals in the world, most especially in the Western Hemisphere? Back your arguments with selected political economy theories.

Global governance

8. To what extent and in what ways do regimes matter in world politics? Write an essay discussing the three main theoretical perspectives on the relevance and role of international regimes – namely, Realist, Rationalist Institutional, and Constructivist/Sociological Institutional. Select a specific international regime and explain which of these perspectives provides a more accurate account of its origins and evolution.

Development

9. What is the relationship between dependency theory and Marxism? How do dependency theorists differ from Marx’s writings on the development of capitalism in the periphery? Has dependency theory been invalidated by empirical evidence? Discuss in reference to the experiences of Latin American and East Asian countries.
10. The 1980s and 1990s saw the spread of economic and political liberalization in much of the developing world. Free-market oriented economic reforms took root throughout Latin American, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and many of the countries of the former communist bloc. Scholars have emphasized at least four causal mechanisms when studying this “diffusion” of economic liberalism to the developing world: coercion, competition, learning and emulation. Explain the differences among these mechanisms. Which of these mechanisms were more relevant in explaining liberal reforms in Latin America and other developing regions in the 1990s?