

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Program of International Studies

Spring 2016

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 Sociology Computer Lab (Merrick Building Room 207). You must email your exam to Dr. Yaffe (l.yaffe@umiami.edu) immediately upon completion.

### Mandatory Question

1. Since its inception, International Political Economy (IPE) has been centrally concerned with the interaction of states and markets in the context of increasing international interdependence. Discuss the evolution of scholarly views and perspectives regarding the role of the state in market societies and the ways in which these intellectual debates have influenced policy-making at the national and international levels since the end of the Second World War. To what extent and in what ways has the more recent global financial crisis altered the balance between states and markets? Some scholars have argued that the crisis highlighted the need for a recreated “embedded liberalism” compromise. Do you agree? In your answer, be sure to combine theoretical insights with detailed empirical and historical analysis.

### Optional Questions

#### *Globalization and the State*

2. An extensive body of literature in international and comparative political economy has studied the impact of globalization on the welfare state. Proponents of the so-called “efficiency thesis” emphasize the constraining effect of increased economic integration on national welfare policies. By contrast, scholars defending the “compensation thesis” claim that international market integration has in fact worked to strengthen and expand the welfare state. Write an essay summarizing the main theoretical arguments and empirical evidence put forward by the advocates of each perspective. Discuss the implications of this debate for both developed and developing countries. Be sure to carefully define your concepts, cite the relevant literature and provide specific examples.

OR

3. The IPE literature on financial globalization has emphasized the adverse consequences of increased deregulation of global finance since the 1970s. Susan Strange, a central IPE figure, warned in *Casino Capitalism* and *Mad Money* about the dangerous consequences of increasingly volatile and speculative capital flows not only for national autonomy but also for the stability of the international economic system. Write an essay summarizing her arguments and the more

general arguments made by those who follow this lineage. Be sure to cite the most significant authors and the contribution they have made in advancing this line of argumentation. What light do these perspectives on global finance shed on the origins and consequences of the recent international financial crisis?

### ***Global Economic Governance***

4. In the aftermath of the Second World War the establishment of the Bretton Woods institutions has prompted considerable theoretical debate among scholars. Several theoretical approaches to explain the creation, maintenance and transformation of the post-war international economic regime have been proposed. Discuss these competing theoretical perspectives, citing the relevant literature and authors. Which approach or combination of approaches best explain(s) the evolution of global economic governance since 1971? How useful are these approaches in accounting for recent developments in international economic regimes, including the stalemate in multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO and the recent expansion of the G-7?

OR

5. It is commonly argued that globalization has generated or intensified a variety of collective action problems that can only be adequately addressed by global institutions and other means of global governance. Identify some such relevant collective action problems that you believe are a consequence of globalization, explain how governance could help solve the problems, and present the main obstacles for the implementation of such measures. Distinguish between public goods and common property resources.

### ***Trade Agreements***

6. A latest example of “mega-regional trade-agreements is the recently approved Transpacific Trade and Investment Agreement (TIP) between the US and several countries on the shores of the Pacific. This operation is coincidental with the still under negotiation Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the US and the European Union. What is their context and timing? What could be the impact on existing or evolving sub regional deals in other regions.
7. The past two decades have seen an impressive surge in the number of regional trade agreements (RTAs) in the international trading system. This proliferation of overlapping RTAs has given rise to substantial scholarly interest in both their sources and their consequences. Drawing on this work, discuss the main economic, political and security factors explaining the recent spread of this type of preferential trading arrangements. Discuss also the complex interrelationship between the emerging “spaghetti bowl” of RTAs and the multilateral trading system. Do RTAs complement or hamper multilateral trade liberalization? To what extent and in what ways have recent developments in the multilateral trading system contributed to the proliferation of regional trade institutions? In your answer, cite the relevant literature and provide specific examples.

### ***Development***

8. A central debate in the field of development has focused on aid effectiveness, that is, on the extent to which foreign aid dollars actually contribute to the goals of reducing poverty and

promoting economic growth. Some scholars argue that foreign assistance is essential to help least developed countries escape their “poverty trap.” In contrast, others have been highly skeptical of such solutions, pointing to the limited effectiveness of foreign aid programs in the past four decades. Write an essay explaining the main arguments put forward by those against and in favor of an expansion of foreign aid. Discuss the main empirical findings of recent research on the effects of foreign aid and development, and its implications for international policy debates. Be sure to cite the relevant literature and provide specific examples.

9. Why are some societies rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? In their highly praised recent book, *Why Nations Fail*. Acemoglu and Robinson contend that culture, climate, geography, or knowledge/ignorance of what are the right policies are not adequate explanations of long-term growth and development. Instead, they marshal historical and contemporary evidence to argue that the answer is “institutions, institutions, institutions.” Citing the main authors, your task is to explain the hypotheses and methods underlying the rival explanations based upon culture, climate, geography, and institutions) and evaluate the claims advanced by Acemoglu and Robinson.

### ***Global Public Health***

10. Analyze how globalization has reshaped global health public issues in the twenty-first century using specific examples.

OR

11. Do you think it is the specialized international health actors or the International Financial Institutions that provide the best stewardship for global public health policies in the twenty-first century? Take one side of the argument and use specific examples.