



## **IR/FP Comprehensive Examination, Fall 2015**

Instructions: Ph.D. students must answer the mandatory and three (3) optional questions (in 8 hours). M.A. students must answer the mandatory and two (2) optional questions (in 4 hours). Note — you may answer only one (1) question from any optional group. Be sure to provide the corresponding number to the questions you answer. You must email your finished answer to Dr. Yaffe ([l.yaffe@umiami.edu](mailto:l.yaffe@umiami.edu)) immediately upon completion.

Do NOT put your name anywhere on the examination, but rather include your STUDENT ID or SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ON THE TOP OF THE FIRST PAGE.

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### **Mandatory**

The academic discipline of International Relations responds to and reflects on changes in the world events at the slow, glacial pace, governed by guildlike regulations and socio-professional traditions. Some theories of IR are regarded as ageless and universally valid canons, requiring only tweaking. Any more energetic fixes get a new name, to be styled as new "paradigms". Discuss.

### **Optional Questions**

#### **IR Theory**

1. What date best signifies modernity in International Relations theory?
2. In International Relations theory, why has the dominant conception of rationality changed over time?

#### **Security & Conflict**

3. Discuss the evolution of the concept of security in the post-Cold War era and analyze the current major approaches. Do 'realists' still dominate scholarly debates over security?  
Int'l Law/ Institutions/ Global Governance
4. The United Nations Charter in Article 2(4) prohibits the "threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State." What exceptions to that principle are built into the Charter and considered legitimate? Is the new doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" now accepted as a legitimate use of force for humanitarian intervention? If so, does it require an amendment of the Charter?

#### **(US) Foreign Policy**

5. Major powers operate over periods of time on the basis of something referred to as "grand strategy," though they may not publicize it as such. It is "what a country does to advance its

national security” (Richard Haass) both abroad and internally. Has the United States adopted a grand strategy for the post-Cold War years? Do other major states such as Russia and China (or any European powers) have any discernable “grand strategies”?

6. What were the circumstances and reasons why foreign policy analysis became apparently an independent field of inquiry? Have there been any efforts to bridge the gap and re-integrate foreign policy analysis into IR theory? What, if anything, is new in neoclassical realism?

### **IPE/ Int'l Development**

7. A United Nations Summit will convene in November to draft a legally-binding treaty on means to mitigate the disastrous effects of global warming (climate change) to be signed in Paris in December. Discuss the issues at stake and the likely participation of the various major groups of states such as the previous Kyoto Accord members and the major polluters such as Russia, China, India and the United States.

### **Global Public Health**

8. The trajectory of interdisciplinary research continues to influence academic training, and this is well recognized with the increase of global health programs within IR scholarship. While scholars have shown how politics shape global public health issues, policies and practices, we also know that global health challenges are changing the way we think about international relations and foreign policies to protect and secure health within and across borders. Discuss and then analyze the relationship of IR and global public health using specific examples and policies to support your work.

### **European Studies**

9. Select one of the major challenges confronting the European Union today. Justify your choice in terms of impact on the economic, institutional, political, social, or security dimensions of Europe (and spill-over or contagion effects on the rest of the world, if applicable). Apply conceptual and/or analytical frameworks proposed by general International Relations or specific European Integration theories.

10. More than half a century after the birth of the European Union, a clear consensus of its nature is still pending. Commentators and scholars frequently resort to popular explanations resembling what EU Commission President Jacques Delors was quoted as saying: “The EU is a UPO (an Unidentified Political Object).” Contribute to this debate and clarification. Outline at least three main theories of EU integration, name a selection of their main authors, and interpret these scholarly interpretations on solid grounds of historical trends and recent developments.