

# IR/FP Comprehensive Examination

Spring 2014

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 email 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.

## **Mandatory IR Theory**

1. If, when, or as the United States declines as the hegemon, how would that reshape the major contours of world politics?

## **Optional Questions**

### **IR Theory**

2. What is new in neoclassical realism and is it a degenerative research program?

3. Which school of IR thought - English, Danish, Marxist, or another - is most likely to enter the US mainstream ten years from now?

### **Security & Conflict**

4. Eastern enlargement has characterized the policies of both the European Union and NATO for the past two decades. To what extent do the two policies/processes operate in tandem, or in conflict with another? What are the key factors - in both organizations and among candidate members - that have encouraged and discouraged expansion? To what extent can they be viewed as efforts to 'contain' the ability of the Russian Federation to extend its influence into former Soviet space? To what extent can they be viewed as a factor that contributed to the current crisis in Ukraine?

5. Since World War II, according to Jon Elster there have been approximately 30 instances of transitions from authoritarian regimes or conflicts to democracy around the world. Elster sites five clusters: The 1950-1960s in Western Europe and Japan; The 1970s in Southern Europe; The 1980s Southern cone; Around 1990 in Eastern and Central Europe; and the 80s-mid-90s in Africa. In addition, a new cluster has recently unfolded in the context of the "Arab Spring" uprisings and their aftermath.

Compare two selected clusters using the main mechanisms of Transitional Justice (ie..

accountability, truth, reparations, amnesty and institutional reform) and contrast these with its main goals (peace, reconciliation, advancing democracy and preventing future violations of Human Rights).

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

6. Analyze the US and the Russia's respective tactical moves with respect to the unfolding situation in the Ukraine and Crimea. And what is the broader strategy at work here? How successful have Obama and Putin been, respectively? And what is the significance for longer term relations, regional stability, and global order/ conflict as a consequence? Employ foreign policy analytical tools, scholarly literature, and empirical evidence.

### **Int'l Law/ Institutions/ Global Governance**

7. Ten years from now, what is the future of the sovereignty norm? Versus that of humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect norm?

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

8. Indicators with respect to inequality and poverty in the Third World/Global South have changed in the past decades. In the industrializing nations of Asia, inequality seems to have been reduced, but in Latin America, there is evidence of ever-persistent poverty and growing inequality. In Africa, entire nations have been labeled, 'failed states,' with higher levels of both poverty and inequality. Why has this happened, and what are possible solutions?

### **Latin American Studies**

9. What happened to the U.S.-led "War on Drugs" in Latin America after the terrorist events of 9/11/01? What, if any, relationship does Washington posit between the War on Drugs and the War on Terrorism? What consequences has the U.S.-conduct of the War on Terrorism since 9/11 had on the flows of illicit drugs from the Andean region and Mexico into the United States? In your view, as of year-end 2003, is the U.S. government winning or losing the anti-drug fight in Latin America? What impacts has US policy had on economic welfare and democratic politics in the region? Identify the authors and theoretical approaches that best illuminate these issues.

### **European Studies**

10. The European Union's history has shown a constant aim of constructing a supranational entity that would tame the historical mistakes of the nation-state in causing wars and other tragedies. However, governmental bodies have resisted ceding power to the EU in many areas. This oscillating movement has been observed from different angles by a number of theories. Select some of the most relevant theories and apply them to an issue of contention. Anchor or contextualize your analysis within the appropriate historical time-frame and cite specific state-level protagonists/leaders involved. Finally, predict how this issue will continue to play out between the state and EU level, and link your forecast to EU's overall survival and its prospects to continue to dominate the European political milieu in near future.