

IR/FP Comprehensive Examination Spring 2016

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 examination to Dr. Bryan Page (bryan.page@miami.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

The academic discipline of International Relations responds to and reflects on changes in the world events at the slow, glacial pace, governed by guild-like 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" or a prefix neo- is used to show that something has changed. Discuss the above statement in light of the current events in the world. Can any of the IR approaches adequately handle what is going on in the world? Or do we need a new "paradigm"?

Optional Questions

IR Theory

1. In International Relations theory, why has the dominant conception of rationality changed over time?
2. How do IR theories handle "globalization". Does it not undermine the statecentric basis of US IR theory?

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

3. 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?
4. At the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, COP21, in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement (so it states). The

aim is to keep global warming well below 2°C from pre-industrial levels. The agreement is due to enter into force in 2020 and depends on periodic revision of national plans of signatories to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Discuss the issues at stake and the likelihood of this accord to meet its goals. What will be the anticipated actions of the world's major polluters? What could happen if the agreement fails to meet its goals?

(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 (e.g. s HIV/AIDS, SARS, Pandemic flu, MERS, Ebola, as well as cancers, heart disease and obesity) are changing the way we think about international relations and foreign policies to protect and secure health within and across borders. Your task is to discuss and then analyze the relationship of IR and global public health using specific examples and policies to support your work.

European Studies

9. After the Paris and Brussels attacks, a call for “More Europe” (reinforcement of supranational competences) and renationalizing of policies have been the two extremes of remedies proposed for the EU in facing the dual threat of terrorism and uncontrolled immigration. Are those two strategies the only available choices? Explain the hidden angles of both options and offer alternatives.

10. What is the European Union? Decades after its birth, observers still do not agree on the nature of the EU. Is it a standard international organization? A federation in the making? A one-of-a-kind example of inter-state entity of economic cooperation and political alliance? In sum, offer an interpretation of the essence of the EU, using selective theoretical frameworks and

conceptual analytical tools.

11. Rate some (select at least three) of the accomplishments (or shortcomings) of the European Union: peace, security, enlargement, Schengen agreement, the euro, institutional coherence, model for regional integration.