

IR/FP Comprehensive Examination

Spring 2012

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. The exam will begin promptly at 9 am in Merrick Rooms 304/305a/305b.

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. In his work, Alexander Wendt has framed two key debates in IR theory in the post-Cold War era, 'anarchy is what states make of it' and 'ideas all the way down(?)' Write an essay citing relevant literature and schools of thought, discussing, first, Wendt's position on both of these statements, contextualized within the IR debates, and also within the broader historical context in which he was writing. Where would you position Wendt's body of work within or against the traditions of realism, liberalism, and constructivism?

Second, how do these two mantras, of sorts, relate to other schools or approaches, such as Critical theory, historical materialism and other neo/post-Marxist thought, feminism, and post-structuralism and post-/anti-de-coloniality?

Third, where do you position yourself vis-à-vis these ontological debates on anarchy and ideas/discourse, and thus what methodologies do you deem most appropriate for studying IR?

Optional Questions

IR Theory (more narrow or specific theory/ conceptual/ literature questions)

2. In the past several decades Waltzian neorealism has become divided into two main subcategories: offensive realism and defensive realism. What common assumptions do offensive realism and defensive realism share? Where do they diverge in terms of: their respective causal logics, their respective appraisals of the security dilemma, and their respective prescriptions for great powers' grand strategies? In your view, is offensive realism or defensive realism a more powerful explanatory tool in accounting both for international political outcomes in the realm of security, and in analyzing the policies of great powers?

Why and under what circumstances is this likely to be the case? Use real world contemporary or historical examples in making your argument, in addition to citing relevant literature throughout.

3. Drawing on international relations theory, what explains or helps us to understand the Bush administration's 'war on terror'? Feel free to make your answer as broad (that is, using several approaches) or narrow (that is, using a variety of concepts from one approach) as you deem appropriate in answering this question.

Security & Conflict

4. From anthrax to pandemic influenza, global public health issues and policies reflect an emergent transnational concern. A new approach to securitize diseases, associated with infectious biological agents, or weapons of disease, suggest global health has arrived as an important dimension of IR, specifically related to international cooperation and law, global governance institutions, and security studies today. How will the securitization of infectious diseases foster greater cooperation in sharing critical health information? What are the prospects for a global public health regime as part of global governance? Conversely, what threats to security and potential sources of conflict can be identified with respect to pandemics, or fears arising from them?

In preparing this essay a) discuss how global public health issues and policies, and specifically infectious diseases, have become more salient in IR theory and practice; b) define key terms, such as securitization of disease, health security, health diplomacy, global health governance and viral sovereignty, and demonstrate how these concepts have become relevant to IR; c) Use at least two international agencies/actors and real-world examples to support your answer and (d) cite relevant literature throughout.

5. Discuss the evolution of the concept of security in the post-Cold War era. Citing the relevant literature, which are the major approaches to the concept of security among scholars today? How do these alternative approaches compare and contrast with each other? Which are the major advantages and disadvantages of each approach you identify? In your view, do 'realists' still dominate scholarly debates over security? Why or why not? Explain.

(US) Foreign Policy

6. What is foreign policy analysis? Where would you locate this field of analysis conceptually vis-à-vis IR Theory and Comparative Politics? Is the problem of 'level of analysis' relevant to this discussion? If so, how and why? Be sure to cite the relevant literature on foreign policy analysis, and feel free to illustrate your argument with reference to contemporary or historical foreign policy decisions.

Int'l Law/ Institutions/ Global Governance

7. 'We the peoples of the United Nations' is the opening line in the United Nations Charter,

even though a more accurate line would refer to states, not peoples. The United Nations is unquestionably the forum in which many global debates take place, such as response to climate change and global warming, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, emerging human rights doctrines such as R2P, response to global health issues and pandemics, humanitarian disasters and civil wars, terrorism and transnational crime. But do any of these issues suggest a movement beyond the contemporary interstate system toward global governance in the form of an 'international society', 'world society', or 'world polity'? Do transnational actors rival states to any appreciable degree in the transformation of a state-centered United Nations, or (global) governance more generally?

IPE/ Int'l Development

8. Inequality and poverty in the Third World/Global South seem to 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 more 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. Most observers of Latin America-US relations agree that US influence in Latin America has declined markedly over the last decade. This seems to be of no great concern to the U.S., however, because of its preoccupations elsewhere and the lack of an existential security threat from the hemisphere. Meanwhile, Latin America has increasingly established transnational and global relationships beyond the Americas. One set of relations in particular, those with China, in the areas of trade, investment and banking (both in the Americas and in Africa) have raised concerns reminiscent of those that fueled the rise of dependency theory of Prebisch and his colleagues in the 1960's. Has the 'Washington consensus' been replaced by a 'Beijing consensus'? Or are we in a period of flux, reminiscent of the days of the Non-Aligned Movement? Does this matter to US interests in the hemisphere or globally? If you were advising South American governments on these matters, what sort of new 'consensus' would you advocate?

European Studies

10. Former High Representative for EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, recently claimed that the current crisis in Europe needs 'more Europe'. What might he and others (since the foundational times of Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman) mean by this statement, in terms of necessary new measures, treaties, leadership, etc.? What theories and literature would explain or advocate a return to 'more Europe'? Other observers claim that the EU has moved toward *intergovernmentalism* ("less Europe")?. How does this contrast with the historical path to *supranationalism* taken by the EU, and how does it relate to the possible paths mentioned herein for Europe out of this crisis? In your answer, cite theories,

texts, and historical events of international relations, regional integration and especially EU integration, nationalism and identity.