

Spring 2009

PhD Comprehensive Examination: International Relations

Major Field Exam: Answer FOUR questions and have EIGHT hours to do so.

Minor Field Exam: Answer THREE questions and have SIX hours to do so.

1. Should domestic politics be integrated into a theory of international politics? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. What are the pros and cons of methodological pluralism?
3. Is "identity" a useful concept for international relations theory? If so, how is it best understood and operationalized?
4. Does distinguishing the Cold War from the post-Cold War period make sense from the standpoint of international politics theory?
5. What are the most promising theoretical approaches for understanding the nature of foreign policy decision-making?
6. The field of economics has seen the rise of "behavioral economics," which incorporates insights about human behavior at odds with more traditional rational choice approaches. Why has there been no corresponding development of a field of "behavioral IR"?
7. How well does existing international politics theory address the phenomenon of terrorism? Should theorists give more, or less, attention to the global role and activities of terrorist groups?
8. How important is the global distribution of power to international politics?