

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICS COMPREHENSIVE EXAM
JANUARY 2011**

Majors: choose four of the following questions.

Minors: choose three of the following questions.

Watch the time, all questions count equally.

- 1) Anarchy plays a central role across many different theories of international relations, but the theories reach quite different conclusions about its implications. Provide a summary of how at least two different strands of realism and also neo-institutionalism understand the implications of anarchy. Then identify and explore some of the key reasons they disagree.
- 2)) The democratic peace is widely believed to have a strong empirical basis, but there is far less agreement on why it has occurred. Review the key contending explanations, and discuss how they complement or undermine other strands of IR theory.
- 3) What contribution have other social science disciplines (e.g., economics, anthropology, sociology, psychology) made to the development of political science theories of IR? Discuss at least two other disciplines in your essay.
- 4) Many scholars have bemoaned the unusual development of the subfield of international relations and have argued that it does not resemble the rest of political science. To what extent have the so-called “great debates” helped the field or fueled the evolution of the field, and to what extent have they held it back? Overall, how constructive has this approach to theory development been? Your answer should support its claims by exploring specific lines of argument and debate that have been positively/negatively affected.
- 5) How have international political economy scholars sought to integrate domestic and international factors in their explanations? Do current approaches do a good job at integrating these two levels of explanation? Why or why not?

Note: You may choose EITHER 6 OR 7; you may NOT answer both.

- 6) Evaluate the following statement: “All IR theory is a product of its time
- 7) Should we judge IR theories on whether or not they are policy relevant?