**IR COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: JANUARY 2015**

Majors answer 4 questions; at least one from each part.

Minors and M.A. students answer 3 questions, one from each part.

**Part One:**

1. Which is more important in international politics, anarchy or hierarchy? Justify your answer with specific examples.
2. IR theory has been criticized for focusing too narrowly on militarily powerful states. In your view, how well does the current body of theory account for the behavior of weak states? Answer this question with reference to at least one dependent variable from IPE and one from security.
3. IR scholars often debate how to study "power" in international politics. Characterize at least three broadly different views about what power means, showing what is at stake in each conceptualization. Are there reasons to prefer one above the others?

**Part Two:**

1. Can interstate war and civil war effectively be analyzed through a single theoretical lens? If so, which one and how? If not, why not?
2. In what ways do civilian-military relations shape security policy? How important is this relationship? Are there other domestic relationships that are more consequential? If so, how and why? If not, why not?
3. How does international relations scholarship address the problem of “failed states”? Which approaches are most insightful and by what metric?

**Part Three:**

7. What is most important for understanding international political economy?

Individual preferences; domestic institutions; international institutions; or

the distribution of power across the system? Why? Which is the least important and why?

1. Many analysts have criticized international relations scholars for failing to predict the peaceful end of the Cold War. Did international political economy scholars offer much prediction of or valuable post-crisis insights into the most recent financial crisis?
2. If international organizations did not exist, would the global economy look

any different? Why or why not?