

Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in International Relations Spring 2019
Morning Exam

Answer *one* of the following questions. Indicate the question number and provide the text of the question at the start of your answer.

1. Plan and outline a graduate seminar that you believe would serve as an appropriate introduction to international relations for all political science graduate students.

- What topics would you cover? Are there any common topics you would omit?
- Which works are the essential readings for the course? Are there any “canonical” readings you would omit?
- Offer detailed justifications for the topics and works included/excluded.

2. What are the most significant theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of international relations over the past twenty years?

- Discuss at least one theoretical and one empirical contribution, citing specific examples from the literature. Why have these contributions advanced the state of the field?
- What are some existing weaknesses in the field of international relations that offer particularly attractive opportunities for further research?

Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in International Relations Spring 2019
Afternoon Exam

Answer *two* of the following questions. Indicate the question number and provide the text of the question at the start of your answer.

1. What role do domestic political institutions play in determining the nature of international economic relations? Your answer should focus on only ONE of the following: international trade, foreign direct investment, or international monetary relations.
2. Compliance with the international rules/laws varies greatly across countries within particular institutions, and across institutional settings. What explains why some institutions are more effective than others at eliciting compliance? What explains why some countries are more likely to comply with institutional rules than other?
3. How do individual grievances grow into large-scale, violent, internal conflicts (civil wars)? In your answer discuss the strategic and tactical considerations of the aggrieved in organizing resistance.
4. Assume that explicit assumptions about human decision making are necessary to construct coherent explanations of state behavior. Evaluate rational and cognitive assumptions in terms of their capacity to provide a foundation for building international relations theory and/or for conducting foreign policy analysis.
5. Can economic sanctions ever be used to improve human security? If your answer is yes, explain under which conditions we would expect to see those improvements and under which conditions the sanctions would be likely to fail. If your answer is no, explain why economic sanctions are bound to fail as a method for improving human security and why governments still use them for that expressed purpose.
6. The field of international conflict management leaves the impression that little knowledge has accumulated. First, is this an accurate impression? Why or why not? Second, how would you advise scholars to move the field forward? That is, what two broad themes would you encourage researchers to pursue? Why these two? What benefits would such a research program bring, and how would it build off existing research?
7. After several decades of quantitative research on international conflict, are we any closer to a unified theory of war? Is there a theoretical framework in the literature that can coherently piece together the various findings from this body of research? If so, what is it? If not, what is the best available framework?