

IR Comp Fall 2021

Morning Questions

Please answer *one* of the following questions.

1. IR scholars have traditionally separated international and domestic politics by arguing that international politics take place in an anarchic environment, while domestic politics do not.
 - Is this a compelling argument for treating them as separate fields of study? Why or why not?
 - What are the advantages or disadvantages of incorporating domestic politics into analyses of international politics?

2. Plan and outline a graduate seminar that 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.

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Afternoon Questions

Please answer *two* of the following questions.

1. Do international institutions play an important role in international relations or not? If so, how? If not, why not? Is the role of international institutions sensitive to the issue area? And where do you think the most promising breakthrough in the study of international institutions is likely to occur? Address these questions based on previous theoretical and empirical research in both international conflict and cooperation.
2. 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 usefulness for building international relations theory and/or for conducting foreign policy analysis.
3. Many contend that non-state actors have grown in their numbers and influence in the last twenty years. How have non-state actors been incorporated into IR theory? Are the growth of these actors in society influencing IR in lasting ways? Focusing on any one type of non-state actor (firms, terrorist organizations, NGOs, etc), what are a few of the big questions left for scholars to understand?
4. 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.
5. The study of colonialism and empire was foundational to the contemporary (ie Post-WWI) discipline of international relations. Has imperialism always been a driving force of world politics? What are some ways we see the influence of colonialism and racism in international relations today? In your answer be sure to address whether and why the big IR "isms" are inherently racist in history, assumption, and practice. Discuss the implications of these foundations for our theory, policy, and community today.
6. The bargaining model of war is ubiquitous in contemporary studies of international conflict. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this analytical framework. What important insights has it yielded, if any?