

COMPS

World Politics A. *All IR majors and all IR minors must write one essay from this section.*

1A. "For all the ridicule it has received, the debate over the '3 isms' in IR theory actually is important and useful." Discuss.

2A. "The greatest progress in the field over the past decade has come from a focus on the importance of information rather than power in IR." Discuss.

3A. What theoretical tools are most appropriate for understanding the impact of globalization on international politics?

World Politics B. *This section is optional for both majors and minors.*

4B. "Bureaucracies are central to the making of foreign policy, but we have no powerful and well-supported theories of how they explain state behavior." Discuss.

5B. "Signaling of intentions rarely is effective--indeed the very fact that a state has to signal what it will do means that it knows that others have reason to think that it will act otherwise." Discuss.

1B. "The better idea doesn't have to win because it is a better idea. It requires great powers to champion it." Discuss.

2B. What causes terrorism?

3B. Can theories of ethnic or nationalist violence also explain religious violence? Discuss with reference to international war or international intervention in internal conflicts.

4B. "The ideological underpinning of American foreign policy too often confuses the implications of exceptionalism and universalism." Discuss.

6B. Cooperation theorists have argued that the institutional design of international treaties can be explained with reference to the cooperation problems that states are trying to solve. What are the benefits and costs of such functionalist explanations for treaty design? Discuss the relevant literature and provide examples of treaties that the functionalist logic can and cannot explain.

7B. Are norms important variables in the study of international relations? Discuss competing arguments on this question, and then propose a research idea grounded in a topic of your own substantive interest that would advance the state of current knowledge on this issue.

6. The Just War tradition holds that the jus ad bellum and jus in bello should be semi-independent judgments -- that is, that states can fight just wars unjustly and unjust wars justly. What are the best arguments for or against this proposition?

4. Under contemporary international law, when can a state legally use force in or against another state?

International Security *All IR majors must write one essay from this section OR from the IPE section. This section is optional for IR minors.*

1is. "In peacetime, governments or groups buy military forces for defense for the same reasons that individuals buy life insurance policies." What logic and empirical examples confirm or contradict this analogy?

2is. Under what conditions do states fight preventive wars?

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14 Commitment problems pervade international relations in areas including trade, finance, aid, and others. Explain how commitment problems can impact two areas of international relations and why this can lead to inefficient policies. How and when can institutions help to solve these problems?

15 Does international trade liberalization cause a "race to the bottom" or a "race to the top" in environmental policy? Summarize the arguments on both sides of the debate and evaluate the empirical evidence.