DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME OR STUDENT NUMBER ON YOUR EXAM

Ph.D. students have eight (8) hours to complete the exam and must answer the mandatory and three (3) optional questions. M.A. students have four (4) hours and must answer the mandatory and two (2) optional questions. Note: you may answer only one (1) question from any optional group.

Mandatory Question

1. The recent publication of Benjamin Cohen’s book, *International Political Economy: An Intellectual History*, has sparked a heated debate among International Political Economy (IPE) scholars. Particularly controversial is Cohen’s organization of the field into two separate and opposed intellectual camps, the “American” and “British” schools of IPE. What are the purported differences between the two schools that Cohen identifies? How useful is this characterization of the field? Write an essay summarizing the most significant criticisms that have emerged in response to Cohen’s categorization and be certain to indicate the author(s) who have raised these criticisms. Based on these arguments, how feasible and desirable would it be to “build bridges” between the different traditions in IPE? And what does this debate tell us about the disciplinary evolution and standing of IPE as a scholarly field in the social sciences?

Optional Questions

Theoretical and Epistemological Debates

2. There are several "critical" schools of IPE, including neo-Gramscian, World Systems Theory, Critical and Post-Structural IPE, and Feminist IPE. Select three of these non-mainstream schools, identify the most significant theorists from each perspective, and discuss their contributions and the strengths and weaknesses of their respective approaches.

Globalization

3. An extensive body of literature in international and comparative political economy has studied the impact of globalization on the welfare state. Proponents of the so-called “efficiency thesis” emphasize the constraining effect of increased economic integration on national welfare policies. By contrast, scholars defending the “compensation thesis” claim that international market integration has in fact worked to strengthen and expand the welfare state. Write an essay summarizing the main theoretical arguments and empirical evidence put forward by the advocates of each perspective. Discuss the implications of this debate for both developed and developing countries. Be sure to carefully define your concepts, cite the relevant literature and provide specific examples.

4. The IPE literature on financial globalization has emphasized the adverse consequences of increased deregulation of global finance since the 1970s. Susan Strange, a central IPE figure, warned in *Casino Capitalism* and *Mad Money* about the dangerous consequences of increasingly volatile and speculative capital flows not only for national autonomy but also for the stability of the international economic system. Write an essay summarizing her arguments and the more general arguments made
by those who follow this lineage. Be sure to cite the most significant authors and the contribution they have made in advancing this line of argumentation. What light do these perspectives on global finance shed on the origins and consequences of the recent international financial crisis?

**Trade**

5. A central debate in IPE focuses on the domestic political sources of foreign economic policy making. Society-centered approaches explain national trade, investment and monetary policy choices in reference to pressures from groups in society. Among these, different scholars rely on different assumptions about the sources of societal groups’ preferences and the resulting domestic political cleavages over foreign economic policy. Focusing specifically on trade policy, discuss and explain the two main competing models used in the IPE literature to derive domestic level preferences. In your view, which approach provides a more realistic explanation of contemporary trade politics in the United States and/or the European Union? Do you believe that such interest-based approaches are by themselves sufficient to account for trade policy choices (in the US and/or the European Union) in recent years? If not, what other theoretical perspective(s) would you use in your explanation and why?

6. The theory of comparative advantage is often used to justify why certain types of countries should specialize in raw materials, labor-intensive manufacturing, capital-intensive goods, or high-skilled services. Explain the logic of comparative advantage, as proposed by David Ricardo and further developed by Heckscher, Ohlin and Samuelson. How useful is this theory in explaining ONE of the following issues: (1) the consolidation of Walmart as a regional retailing monopolist that sells low-cost Chinese goods in the American market; (2) the recent international financial crisis and its effect on the re-alignment of economic power; OR (3) the use of national economic policy to alter a country’s “comparative advantage” and thus gain economic dominance over other nations.

**Global Economic Governance**

7. In the aftermath of the Second World War the establishment of the Bretton Woods institutions has prompted considerable theoretical debate among scholars. Several theoretical approaches to explain the creation, maintenance and transformation of the post-war international economic regime have been proposed. Discuss these competing theoretical perspectives, citing the relevant literature and authors. Which approach or combination of approaches best explain(s) the evolution of global economic governance since 1971? How useful are these approaches in accounting for recent developments in international economic regimes, including the stalemate in multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO and the recent expansion of the G-7?

**Regional Integration**

8. Under the pressure of an economic collapse, Iceland has applied for EU membership and the adoption of the euro. Motivated by fear of economic and political isolation from Europe Ireland recently ratified the Lisbon Treaty. Explain how, in spite of the financial deterioration that has affected all the European countries, membership in the EU is still an asset to be kept and an objective to be fulfilled. What role does the euro play in this? Take care to define your concepts and to include reference to the most significant scholars and their arguments participating in this debate.
9. Neoliberal institutionalists emphasize the role of international and regional regimes in promoting and sustaining interstate cooperation. Write an essay discussing the origins and evolution of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). How successful has NAFTA been in fostering trade and economic cooperation in the North American region? What have been the advantages and disadvantages of NAFTA to its partners? What are the main international and domestic-level constraints on the deepening of North American integration? Discuss the implications of the recent elimination of barriers to trade in agricultural goods within the region as well as the enduring tension between U.S. and Mexico over immigration pressures.

Other Global Issues: Organized Crime and Public Health

10. Many academic analysts have concluded that the U.S.-led war on drugs has not only failed to achieve its stated purposes of reducing significantly or eliminating drug trafficking altogether but that it has been counterproductive, because it has spread organized crime and related violence and corruption into many countries that had previously not been affected. Write an essay reviewing the literature on the political economy of drug trafficking and organized crime. Analyze the principal factors that analysts argue have prevented or inhibited the establishment of an effective global anti-drug regime over the last quarter of a century.

11. Kelley Lee's seminal work on globalization and health provides a useful way to evaluate both the benefits and costs of globalization. Write an essay explaining Lee’s framework of analysis and discuss the different spheres and dimensions she uses to evaluate the connection between globalization and public health outcomes. Be sure to consider how Lee’s work has contributed to the study of IPE. How can this theoretical and empirical evidence be used to promote a more rigorous analysis of the direct and indirect impact of globalization today? Use specific examples demonstrating the positive and negative effects that globalization has had on public health.