Instructions: Ph.D. students must answer the mandatory and three (3) optional questions (in 8 hours). M.A. students must answer the mandatory and two (2) optional questions (in 4 hours). Note — you may answer only one (1) question from any optional group. Be sure to provide the corresponding number to the questions you answer.

1. MANDATORY:

Recently there has been a widening of the debate within IR with the inclusion of new perspectives that not only present epistemological but also ontological challenges to the field. These approaches include but are not limited to social constructivisms, feminisms, neo-marisms, post-structuralisms, post-colonialisms and so forth. Is this a sign of strength within IR (e.g. the diversity reveals an openness or vitality)? If so, why and how? Or do you consider it to be a sign of weakness (e.g. the divides are not intellectually productive)? In your response be certain to discuss at least two post-contemporary/ post-positivist approaches to IR and compare it to the more traditional approaches.

OPTIONAL (Select no more than one (1) from each sub-section)

IR Theory

2. In the 1990s, three ‘mantras’ or catch phrases (linked to key books and authors) arguably competed to shape the discourse in IR: ‘anarchy is what states make of it,’ ‘the end of history’, and the ‘clash of civilizations.’ In your estimation, what has been the prevailing ‘sound bite’ (or conversely, competing sound bites), linked to a text/s and author/s, of the first decade of the 21st century? In your answer, be sure to incorporate the main debates, leading authors and theories of the IR/IPE & FP spectrum.

3. Analysts who focus on ethnicity and nationalism as factors that impact on the incidence of international and domestic conflict have, over the years, based their arguments on different conceptions of ethnicity and national identity – its nature, its origins, the degree to which it is “portable” across state borders, etc. Write an essay in which you outline the central issues in the debates among writers on these topics. What are the key assumptions and orientations that underlie their writing? How do those assumptions and orientations relate to the major divisions within the broader field of International Relations? What difference does it make, in concrete terms whether one begins research with one or the other of those orientations? In your answer be sure to relate your discussion to the works of individual analysts.
4. In *Alternatives to Economic Globalization*, Cavanagh and Mander (2004: 309) averred: "The global trade and finance system and its primary rule-making institutions - the Bretton Woods institutions - have come to a crossroads. Decisions made in the next few years will have important effects on which direction the system will take." In your educated opinion: 
A) Which direction do you think the international economic system is likely headed? How and why? Briefly describe the system or situation today--taking note of the ongoing financial and economic crisis beginning in 2007--and give a brief historical background of how it developed. 
B) In light of ongoing crises and more broadly global structural shifts in geopolitical and economic power witnessed in the last three decades, which institutions are likely to be strengthened, challenged, weakened, or decommissioned in the coming years? What, if any, new institutional regimes could be created--based on which economic and political theories or principles, and practices?

5. Choose one or two thematic transnational social movements (feminism, peace, agriculture, climate change, etc.). Being specific and citing scholarly sources and knowledge about this movement/s throughout your answer: A) Discuss movement actors' diagnostic and prognostic framing of the problems and solutions. Describe the sorts of policy, institutional and structural changes, be it at the local, national, and/or global level, they are advocating; B) Describe this movement's affinities and alliances with other movements in the current cycle of contention; C) Suggest future campaign goals and strategies, including alliance formation, that activists involved in these issues could pursue, at the local, national, and/or global level.

Security Studies

6. Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa raise the specter of security (domestic, regional, international, and global). But what is security? And, security of what and for whom? The field is divided between so-called ‘traditional’ approaches and ‘critical’ or constructivist approaches. Identify and critically discuss at least two approaches to security studies (one ‘traditional’ and the other ‘critical’/constructivist). How can these approaches help us to interpret--or misinterpret--the unfolding events in the Arab and Middle Eastern nations today, and to shape foreign policies to address these events?

7. In your educated opinion, what is the most pressing security issue in the Americas today? Explain, citing relevant literature, by analyzing the problem, surveying the extant policies of relevant actors, and sketching an alternative policy approach, which you think would be more effective in addressing the issue.
8. 'A more recent **global security challenge** to prevent and **control public health threats** related to newly emerging and re-emerging diseases, as well as the risk of an intentional spread of disease within US borders, has influenced US foreign policy differently in the 21st Century than in previous eras.'

Your task is to: (1) Support or refute the above statement. To prepare your response: (2) Discuss the scholarly literature on international health cooperation on trade, travel and reporting of disease outbreaks, the promotion of health diplomacy and the evaluation of both Westphalian and post-Westphalian perspectives that support/refute your position on global public health issues and policies within the foreign policy agenda today. (3) Discuss some of the key health and non-health international actors involved in influencing decision making strategies related to public health and safety (4) Use at least two (2) disease examples (e.g. HIV/AIDS; malaria; tuberculosis; SARS; pandemic flu; dengue; yellow fever; measles, polio, anthrax; plague, Ebola, or food and water related communicable disease spread such as cholera, e.coli, hepatitis A, typhoid, salmonella, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy “mad cow’ disease) to support your answer.

**International Institutions & Law**

9. Has the European Union exhausted its potential as a unifying factor? How valid is the model of the **European Union for the rest of the world today**? Why, in comparison to Europe, has economic and political integration been slow in the regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America? In your answer discuss the most prominent theories of regional integration.

10. Assess the **legality of the recent military action** undertaken by the United States and its allies Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Libya. How have both the issues of legality and legitimacy been seen in the United Nations with respect to these actions? The legitimacy of an action, as well as its legality, is generally measured by whether it is approved by the United Nations Security Council. Is there any other way to measure legitimacy? Are legality and legitimacy synonymous? Given your analysis, does international law, and the desire for legitimacy, significantly modify the way powerful states choose to intervene in less powerful ones?