

**International Relations Field Exam Spring 2018**  
**Field Committee: Dr. Horace Bartilow, Dr. Jesse Johnson, Dr. Dan Morey**

Instructions: This field exam has two sections and you are to answer three questions in total. **ONE** question from the **Theory** and **Methods** section and **TWO** questions from the **Subfield Section**. Identify each answer by the section title and question number when you begin writing. Full citations are not required for the exam; however, do identify authors associated with the arguments or themes whenever possible. You have eight hours to complete the exam. This is a closed book exam; you may not use any resources (notes, internet, books, etc.) for any part of this exam.

**Theory and Methods**

1. Foundational work on international relations invokes systemic explanations of international phenomena. However, dyadic theorizing has become increasingly popular over the past several decades. What are some key differences in these approaches? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Which approach do you think has been more useful for understanding international relations and why?
2. The field of International Relations seems to be increasingly fragmented. What are the sources of this fragmentation? Is there any remaining 'core' of the field of international relations and if so, of what does it consist? How does its core distinguish it from other political science subfields?

### **Subfield Questions**

1. Understanding the effects of peacekeeping is a particularly policy-relevant topic and one of the fastest growing areas of research. What are the important questions in the peacekeeping literature? What are some of the biggest challenges to studying peacekeeping? How have scholars addressed these challenges and have they been successful? What is the most important unanswered question concerning peacekeeping and how can it be addressed?
2. Recent scholarship and data collection efforts have focused on the geographic location of conflicts. One example being the Correlates of War Militarized Interstate Dispute Locations data set. What is the rationale behind the collection of geocoded data, what does it hope to add to the study of various forms of conflict? Has the inclusion of geographic location data made any significant contribution to the study of international relations? If yes, discuss the major contributions. If no, explain why you feel it has been unable to make a strong contribution. Is geocoded data a passing fad or is it here to stay?
3. Power explanations of international relations assert that Hegemony is both a necessary and sufficient criteria for the creation and maintenance of international cooperation via international regimes. Neo-liberal scholars offer a counterfactual response – arguing that in the absence of Hegemony cooperation is still possible and that while power is necessary for the establishment of regimes it is not sufficient for their maintenance. Critically evaluate the neo-liberal claim in terms of the methodological criteria for judging the theoretical and empirical plausibility of counterfactual inference.
4. Describe how you would design an undergraduate course on political violence. What are the topics you would cover? What are the important seminal works associated with these topics that you would assign? What themes would connect the topics? What unanswered questions would your course highlight?