

**International Relations Field Exam**  
**January 2014**

Please answer one question from each section. Keep in mind that you will be evaluated not only on your knowledge of the relevant literature, but also on your ability to think independently and make a compelling argument.

Section I (pick one):

1. Over the past two decades, the “strategic choice” approach to the study of international relations has gained significant traction. Discuss how this approach relates to previous scholarship, what benefits it presents, what limitations it has, and how in your view it should evolve in the future.

2. What do we know about the role of international norms in shaping state behavior? What particular difficulties does the study of norms in international relations present?

Section II (pick one):

1. What do existing theories of international relations have to say about the prospect for interstate war in the Asia-Pacific in the coming decade? Discuss a variety of factors that might make major power war more or less likely.

2. How do domestic institutions and preferences affect international conflict? Discuss with reference to the outbreak, conduct, and/or outcome of interstate conflict.

Section III (pick one):

1. Did the 2007 financial crisis fundamentally change the international financial system? Why or why not? Be careful to distinguish systemic changes from other changes, be specific about what did or did not change, and to make clear what fundamental change in the international financial system entails.

2. It has been argued that scholars working on international political economy tend to focus on the potential for international cooperation, whereas scholars working on security issues see world politics as inherently conflictual. Discuss how these two strands of IR have (or could) be mutually beneficial. In other words, why might a focus on cooperation be useful in the field of security, and why might a focus on conflict be useful in the field of IPE?