

## **Security Studies Preliminary Exam**

Political Science  
Spring 2015

Answer one question from each of the following sections.

### **Section 1**

1. We frequently run into non-linear relationship problems in security studies research. Identify examples in two different substantive areas and show how possible non-linear relationship problems can contribute to misleading conclusions. Do you think these are fundamentally theoretical or methodological problems? What should we, as researchers, do to address these issues?
2. International relations scholars have increasingly incorporated insights from work on institutions into their own work dealing with a wide range of substantive issue-areas. Briefly discuss institutions as a theoretical concept and discuss some examples of institutions that we might encounter in international relations research. Identify and discuss three specific examples of institutional structures influencing actors' behavior in ways that pertain to topics we discuss in security studies. At least one of these examples should pertain to domestic actors and security issues.

### **Section II**

1. Many scholars believe that bargaining theory is a particularly useful tool for understanding security. Why? What are the major strength of this approach? What are the major weaknesses of applying bargaining theory to the study of war? Where should we focus our research efforts to address these weaknesses?
2. Liberal theory is often associated with a focus on the role of government institutions in shaping patterns of conflict behavior. Equally, or perhaps even more important, is the role of economic interests in shaping the incentives and behavior of actors in the international system. Discuss the theoretical underpinnings of the linkage between economic interests and conflict behavior. How do economic interests shape actors' perceptions of their interests, as well as their perceptions of threats? In what ways do economic interests shape conflict behavior and security relationships more broadly?

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History  
Spring 2015

Answer each question:

- 1) Effective political representation is the most important factor in establishing and maintaining peace in a region. (Argue for or against this statement using a region of your choice. In answering this question, make sure to define your region and to present the historiography that is relevant to your region and position).
- 2) Chose one of the following classic works (Mahan, *The Influence of Seapower upon History*, Machiavelli, *The Prince and The Discourses*, or Lenin, *Imperialism and "What is to be Done?"*) and explain why the work is or is not useful in understanding major events in the Cold War and post-Cold War eras. (In answering this question please choose two Cold War-era examples and one post-Cold War example. Your answer to this question should demonstrate knowledge of both historical events and historiography.)