

University of Notre Dame
Department of Political Science
International Relations Comprehensive Exam
May, 2007

You are to answer **three** questions. Your answers will be judged by (a) how well you make a well-written and reasoned answer; and (b) how well you bring the reading of the field, via citation of authors and articles/books, to bear in your answer.

1. Describe in detail and then assess the strength and weaknesses of Kenneth Waltz's distinction between international politics and foreign policy. Since international politics consists of the actions taken by individual states and also non-state entities, and since these actions are likely to be conditioned both by the international environment and by factors internal to those states and entities, discuss how valid Waltz's distinction is in contemporary international politics.
2. Stephen Krasner has complained that “students of international relations have multinationalized, transnationalized, bureaucratized, and transgovernmentalized the state until it has virtually ceased to exist as an analytic construct.” Is Krasner correct? Provide a classification of International Relations based on differing analytic conceptions of the state; make sure to provide examples of work falling within each classification.
3. How do international economic issues shape the way governments think about international security issues? How do security issues shape the way governments think about international economic issues?
4. Is great power war a fading phenomenon? Drawing on your knowledge of the literature on the causes of war, write an essay stating whether you think the danger of great power war is increasing or decreasing.
5. Define constructivism and positivism such that their similarities and differences are evident. Beyond these definitions, what are some of the major claims of constructivists about how international relations works? Are these claims about areas and arguments ones in which there are independent and dependent variables that can be measured and tested?