INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FIELD OF STUDY EXAMINATION

I. STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLITICS FOS EXAMINATION

The International Relations FoS examination has three sections. Each section will have a number of questions that the student may choose from. Students will be expected to answer one question per section.

Section 1. General International Relations Theory

Section 2. Four Thematic Areas: For Section 2, students will read in all four of the following sub-sections:

- Foreign Policy.
- Strategic Studies.
- International Institutions
- International Political Economy.

Section 3. Area of Specialization: Section 3 focuses more specifically on a student’s particular area of specialization through consultation with the Supervisor and the Supervisory Committee.

II. RECOMMENDED PREPARATORY COURSE WORK

The International Relations Field Caucus does not formally tie particular courses to particular sections of the FoS written examination. Students should consult with their Supervisor and look at the reading list below when selecting courses as preparation for the IR FoS written examination.

III. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE IR FOS EXAMINATION

As part of the preparation process, students, the Supervisor and the Supervisory Committee should reach a written agreement on the specific focus on the third section, and the Supervisor and Supervisory Committee should develop the necessary reading list for the student. That agreement, this list, and the list for the third section should be passed on to other members of the examining committee and to the IR caucus more generally when the exam is being developed.
SECTION 1: GENERAL IR THEORY

General Debates and History of the Field


Science and Methods


Approaches to Theory


**DOMINANT THEORETICAL APPROACHES**

**REALISMS**

**General**


**Classical**


Neo-/Structural


Neo-Classical


LIBERALISM
General


Institutionalism


**Constructivism**


**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY, HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONALISM, AND SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES**


CRITICAL THEORIES

General


Feminisms


Race, Post-Colonial and Decolonizing Approaches


Kelebogile Zvobgo and Meredith Loken. “Why Race Matters in International Relations: Western Dominance and White Privilege Permeate the Field. It’s time to change.” Foreign Policy (June 19, 2020.)
SECTION 2: FOUR THEMATIC AREAS

A. FOREIGN POLICY


B. STRATEGIC AND SECURITY STUDIES


**C. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**


**D. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**


SECTION 3: SPECIFIC TOPICS

Section 3 will consist of specific topical foci for students, to be selected in consultation with the Supervisor, and with appropriate reading lists to be developed with the Supervisor. This could reflect additional topic specializations, or a further development of specific sectors from Sections 1 and 2 above. The topic areas listed below are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive. The student should work out the focus and the reading list for this section in consultation with the Supervisor and the Supervisory Committee.

Some possible areas of specialization (examples only):

a. Regime theory
b. Culture and identity
c. Normative and ethical theories, and theories about norms.
d. Institutionalism (historical and other)
e. Historical sociology.
f. Other theories: feminism, post-modernism/post-structuralism, evolutionary/biological, English School, etc.
e. Regional foci.

As well, specific topics in Foreign Policy and in Strategic Studies could be developed: for example, foreign policy issues for specific states and regions.