A GENERAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS READING LIST
FOR PHD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

1. The Structure of the PhD Comprehensive Examination in International Relations

The doctoral written comprehensive examination in International Relations consists of a three-part, three-hour examination. Each part is of equal weight, and the candidate will answer one question from each part (each part will have a choice of questions). The three parts are related to the structure of courses offered at the graduate level in the Department, and in the comprehensive examination reading list, as follows:

Part One is on general International Politics and International Relations Theory. Part Two will draw on one of Foreign Policy or Strategic Studies. Part Three will focus more specifically on the candidate’s broad area of dissertation research.

It is not intended that students should read everything on the list. The candidate should consult with the supervisor for more specific guidance concerning the comprehensive reading list.

2. The Reading List

This list is intended to give some suggestions for students preparing for their doctoral comprehensive exams in International Relations. The readings are divided into four sections, reflecting our three areas in our field description, and one general area. The general section consists of general surveys, anthologies, and methodological debates which should be looked at by all students, if only to extract the more relevant particular material that can complement the readings in the three remaining areas. Readers should pay particular attention to edited volumes in the general and the anthology sections above all. The contents of these will overlap extensively with particular sections below. Other edited volumes in specific sections are more focused. In addition, however, users should bear in mind that these various categories and divisions need not be mutually exclusive, so a candidate may benefit from looking over the entire list for potential readings, not just the most apparently pertinent sections. This is particularly the case with the Anthologies listed in the General section.

Users should also note the journals listed here as well, and should survey them. In some cases, the anthologies and other edited volumes will overlap with the journals. Journals such as International Organization, International Journal, World Politics and International Studies Quarterly should be scanned for their useful general coverage. Other journals that should be examined include: International Security; Millennium; Review of International Studies; European Journal of International Relations; Review of International Political Economy. International Studies Review (formerly Mershon International Studies Review). The International Studies Review in particular provides extensive bibliographic surveys as well as shorter reviews and notes. Others will be useful on a more specialized basis, but some journals may also have very helpful review sections as well. Columbia International Affairs Online (www.ciaonet.org) provides access to a large number of journals, research centers, working papers and the like. It may be consulted to provide more specific material.

Two general volumes may also be of value in scanning the discipline as a whole:

Martin Griffiths, Fifty Key Thinkers in International Relations. London: Routledge, 1999.


These two provide essays giving an overview and some critical assessment of various theorists, lists of their works, and other bibliographic information as well.
SECTION I: GENERAL READINGS

A. Histories, Surveys, Summaries and General Debates


B. Anthologies


*International Organization* Special Issue: Vol. 52, No. 4, Autumn 1998: Exploration and Contestation in the Study of World Politics.


**C. Methods and Methodological Debates**

*Science, Scientific Method, Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, and Debates*


**Rational Action and its Critics**


Oye, Kenneth, (ed.), *Cooperation Under Anarchy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. (This was also a special issue of *World Politics.*)


**SECTION II: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND THEORY**

A. Major Theoretical Schools
**Realism**


**Liberalism**


**World Order, World Society and the English School**


**Regime Theory**


Krasner, Stephen D., (ed.), *International Regimes*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. This was also the Spring 1982 issue of *International Organization*.


**Constructivism**


**Post-Modernism, Discourse Analysis, Etc.**


**Knowledge-based Theories**


**Feminism**


**Critical and Radical Theory**


**Culture and Identity**


**Evolutionary/Biological**


**Normative Theories and Theories about Norms**


**B. International Political Economy and Related**

***International Political Economy (General)***


### Interdependence and Transnational Relations


**Integration**


**Dependency, Imperialism, World-System Theory**


**C. International Law and Organizations (See also regime theory)**

*International Law*


**International Organizations**


SECTION III: FOREIGN POLICY AND COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY

A. Decision-Making and Related

*Decision-making/Perception/Psychological*


*Bureaucratic Politics*


**Crisis and Related Bargaining**


**B. Foreign Policy (General)**


**SECTION IV: STRATEGIC STUDIES AND RELATED**

**A. General and Introduction to the Field**

**General**


**Understanding the Field**


The Classics


B. Traditional Foci

Causes and Conduct of War


**Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy**


**Arms Control and Related**


**C. Current Debates**

**General**


**Traditional/Non-traditional Conceptualizations of Security**


**D. CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES**
