

**Final Examination: Political Science 310**  
**Winter 2008**

**Instructions:** You are allowed to use any notes that you have written/typed yourself for this examination. You may not use primary sources or other persons' notes. You must take the exam in one sitting (as if you were at the Testing Center). Write all answers in a single document, and email that document to me (at [goodliffe@byu.edu](mailto:goodliffe@byu.edu)) in an attachment immediately after you finish. Print a paper copy as well to turn in with these questions.

Follow the directions for each section carefully. Give each word you choose careful thought. Your meaning must be clear and logical. I have very high expectations for your answers. When using another author's idea(s), cite the author clearly. (Year and page number, of course, are not required for this exam. Citations are not included in the word counts.) The entire examination is worth 100 points. There is no time limit.

**After you take the exam, email your answers immediately after you finish, print a paper copy of your answers, and sign in the paper copy with these exam questions.**

**Part A: Research Traditions**

**(16 points)** Provide a statement (250 words or less) comparing and contrasting the primary components (i.e. main premises/assumptions, levels of analysis, causal mechanism, data, etc.) of the following research traditions. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each tradition?

1.

**Part B: Theories**

**(8 points)** Provide a short statement (125 words or less) of which research tradition the following theory/reading belongs to. Your statement should contain the primary components (i.e. independent and dependent variables, causal mechanism, premises/assumptions, levels of analysis, data, etc.) of the theory/reading, and support for your choice of research tradition.

2.

**(12 points)** Provide a statement (200 words or less) of which research tradition the following theory/reading belongs to. Your statement should contain the primary components (i.e. independent and dependent variables, causal mechanism, premises/assumptions, levels of analysis, data, etc.) of the theory/reading, and support for your choice of research tradition.

**Then apply two conceptions of progress to argue whether the theory is progressive or not.**

3.

### Part C: Examples

**(12 points)** State (in 200 words or less) the current event/practice/occurrence that the presenting group used as an application/example for the following theory/reading. Discuss how the event contains the primary components of the theory/reading (i.e. independent and dependent variables, causal mechanism, etc.). In other words, discuss how the theory/reading explains or helps us understand the event. Feel free to go beyond the group's discussion.

4.

**(16 points)** Apply (in 300 words or less) two **theories** (not research traditions) that explain and predict the outcome of the following event/practice/occurrence. Which **theory** is more **explanatory**, and why? Your application should contain the primary components (i.e. independent and dependent variables, causal mechanism, etc.) of the **theories**. Choose your **theories** wisely—do not choose a **theory** that you find to be extremely difficult to apply, and choose **theories** that you can contrast.

5.

### Part D: Essay Question

**(36 points)** Write an essay (in 1000 words or less) on the following question. Please do not exceed the word limit. You must use good grammar, logic, and spelling. Organized essays will be given higher grades than disorganized essays. If there is no logic or clear development of an idea, then you should not expect to receive full credit.

6.

### Part E: (no points)

7. How much time did you spend taking this exam?