 Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

**TAKE-HOME EXAM**

**2012/SPRING**

**2 pages**

## NORAM 4582 – America in the World

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**3 days 04**–**07.06.2012**

**Submit your paper in Fronter at “fellesrom” in the mappe “eksamensinnlevering” no later than 7. June. 2012 at 12.00 noon.**

**The first page of your paper shall contain: Candidate number (which you find at Studentweb), course code and course name, semester, year and the title of the paper. NOT your name! All pages must be numbered.**

**You will find a template to fill in your work when you click on the link “Les her før du leverer!”.**

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At the end of the Cold War, optimistic assessments about the potential for achieving a “new world order” based on “globalization” and marked by a turn away from balance of power politics suggested to many that the goals of liberal internationalism might finally be achieved. Subsequent events—the Al Qaeda attacks and subsequent wars, the worsening Euro-American rift, the emergence of China and India as major powers, the assertion of Russian authority in its “near abroad,” and the on-going “Great Recession” of 2008—have called this rosy picture into question, or perhaps not.

Charles Kupchan tells us that “time and again, postwar lulls in international competition and pronouncements about the obsolescence of war have given way to the return of power-balancing and eventually to great-power conflict” (1999). On the other hand G.J. Ikenberry argues that not much has changed at all, either during, or after the Cold War. The fall of the USSR meant the end of bipolarity, but the world order created by the development of international institutions in the years 1945–1950 has not only endured, it is “in some respects more robust than during its Cold War years” (1996).

Are we headed to a new era of geopolitical conflict with subsequent power balancing? It is impossible to say with any certainty, of course. Your task is to identify and discuss those issues, practical or theoretical, on which an analysis of the possible futures of the international sphere and the U.S. role in it should rest. Pick 2–4 issues that you see as critical and discuss them drawing on course texts as required to substantiate your discussion.

**Explanation: For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the responsible teacher of the course within one week after the exam result has been published in StudentWeb. Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will then decide whether to give a written explanation or meet with you and give an oral explanation to you in person.**