

POLITICAL THEORY EXAMINATION PROCESS (2011 revision)

Exam Schedule

Examinations will be offered twice annually, once at the beginning of the Fall term and once at the end of the Spring term. To take the exam, a student must declare his or her intention to do so well in advance. For a Fall offering of the exam, the deadline is June 1; for a Spring offering of the exam, the deadline is March 1. By this date, the student must secure approval for his or her reading list from one faculty member in political theory, and file the approved reading list with the exam administrator (normally the Graduate Affairs Administrator, Kathy Anderson).

Reading Lists

The exam will cover a reading list of at least 35 works. Each student's list will consist of 20 required works in the history of political thought (listed at the end of this document), and 15 optional works, subject to certain distribution requirements given at the end of this document and also listed in the "Political Theory Examination Bibliography" compiled by the faculty. Of the optional works, at least 10 must be drawn from the "Bibliography"; if they wish, students may include up to 5 optional works of political theory from outside the "Bibliography," provided that these works are approved by a faculty member in political theory.

Structure of the Exam

The exam will be two days in length; students will answer one question per day. Questions on the first day of the exam will cover the history of political thought, and students will be expected to answer those questions with primary reference to works on the required portion of their lists. Questions on the second day of the exam will cover students' whole reading lists; that is, they may deal with contemporary political theory, or with the history of political thought through the twentieth century, or they may ask students to integrate contemporary political theory and the history of political thought. Questions on the second day of the exam will be tailored to each student's reading list.

Exam Day

At the start of each day students will be given a list of two or more questions, typically by e-mail, from which they will choose one question to answer. Students must return their answers to the exam administrator eight hours after they receive their questions. Delivery by e-mail attachment is acceptable. Answers should be typewritten, double-spaced, in 12 point or larger type; each

answer should be between 2000 and 3500 words in length.

Evaluation

At each offering of the exam, at least two faculty in political theory will be responsible for writing questions and evaluating answers. These faculty will be provided with copies of each student's reading list. Each essay will be read and evaluated by at least two faculty members. Students will be notified of the results within one month of taking the exam. "Pass" and "not pass" are the only evaluation options. In accordance with departmental policy, students who do not pass the exam the first time shall have the opportunity to retake the exam at a subsequent offering. If a student fails to pass the examination twice, his or her retention in the Ph.D. program will be under review.

"Faculty in Political Theory"

For the purposes of the exam, "faculty in political theory" include: Julie Cooper, Robert Gooding-Williams, Bernard Harcourt, Patchen Markell, John McCormick, Sankar Muthu, Jennifer Pitts, Nathan Tarcov, and Linda Zerilli.

Advising

We encourage students to begin formulating proposed reading lists in consultation with faculty early in their course of graduate study, and no later than two quarters before they intend to take the exam. Although reading lists need the approval of only one faculty member in political theory, we encourage students to talk with multiple faculty members about their reading lists and strategies for exam preparation. We're happy to help.

Required Works

1. Plato, *Republic*
2. Aristotle, *Politics*
3. Cicero, *On the Commonwealth* and *On the Laws* (published together by Cambridge)
4. Augustine, *City of God*, books IV, 3–4; V, 24; VIII, 1–11; XIV, 28; XV, 1–5; XIX, 4–22, 25–28; XX, 1–2
5. Machiavelli, *The Prince* and *The Discourses on Livy*
6. Hobbes, *Leviathan*
7. Locke, *Second Treatise* and *Letter Concerning Toleration*
8. Rousseau, *Second Discourse (Discourse on the Origin of Inequality)* and *Of the Social Contract*
9. *The Federalist Papers* (1–2, 6–10, 14–28, 33, 36–58, 62–63, 70, 78–85)
10. Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
11. Kant, the selections in *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings*, ed. Kleingeld
12. Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right*
13. Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

14. Marx, "On the Jewish Question," "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," "The Communist Manifesto," and *Capital*, vol. 1. The selections in *The Marx-Engels Reader* or McLellan's *Selected Writings* are sufficient.
15. Mill, *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women*
16. Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*
17. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
18. Weber, "Science as a Vocation" and "Politics as a Vocation"
19. Gandhi, *Selected Political Writings* (ed. Dalton)
20. Arendt, *The Human Condition*

Distribution Requirements for Optional Works

1. At least 10 of the optional works must be from the "Political Theory Exam Bibliography." Up to 5 works may be from outside the Bibliography, but must be approved by a faculty member in political theory.
2. At least 10 of the optional works should be works from the 20th or 21st century and may be drawn from sections VII (Earlier 20th Century), VIII (Contemporary Political Theory), or IX (Major Secondary Perspectives and Methodology) of the Bibliography. Approved works from outside the Bibliography may also be applied toward this quota if they are from the 20th or 21st century.
3. At least 5 of the optional works should be works of contemporary political theory and must be drawn either from section VIII of the Bibliography or from outside the Bibliography, in which case they must be certified by a faculty member as belonging to "Contemporary Political Theory."
4. At least 1 of the optional works should be a work addressing major secondary perspectives or methodology and must come either from section IX of the Bibliography or from outside the Bibliography, in which case it must be certified by a faculty member as belonging to "Major Secondary Perspectives or Methodology."