Political Theory

Themes for Comprehensive Examinations: 2011-2

The first theme, comprised of core works in the history of political thought, is required for all students being examined in the field of political theory. Students majoring in the field are responsible for four additional themes; students offering political theory as a minor field are responsible for two additional themes. N.B.: The theme bibliographies listed here are advisory only (except in the case of the “core” theme); they do not constitute necessary and sufficient lists of the works for which students will be held responsible. A written contract regarding the parameters and bibliography for each theme must be worked out by the student and relevant faculty.

Examination format: Questions may integrate material from more than one theme prepared by the student, or may be specific to one theme. Students majoring in the field will answer three out of five questions, of which at least one question will involve material from the core theme. Students minoring in the field will answer two out of three questions.

Theme 1: History of Political Thought (Required)

For example:

Socrates, “Apology” and “Crito”
Plato, Republic
Aristotle, Politics
Augustine, City of God
Aquinas, The Political Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (Bigongiari, ed.)
Machiavelli, Prince and Discourses
Hobbes, Leviathan
Locke, Second Treatise of Government
Rousseau, Social Contract
Marx, On the Jewish Question; Economic and Political Manuscripts of 1844; Communist Manifesto; Wage Labour and Capital; Critique of the Gotha Program
Mill, On Liberty
Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals
Arendt, The Human Condition
Foucault, The History of Sexuality, vol. 1
Rawls, “Justice as Fairness,” “A Well-Ordered Society,” and “Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical”
Theme 2: Republicanism and the Public Sphere

For example:

Aristotle, Politics
Machiavelli, Discourses
Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, Federalist Papers
Pocock, The Machiavellian Moment
Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws
Arendt, The Human Condition,
Wolin, Politics and Vision
Habermas, The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere
Sennett, Richard, The Fall of Public Man
Weintraub, Public and Private in Thought and Practice
Calhoun, ed., Habermas and the Public Sphere
Carole Pateman, “Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private Dichotomy,” in The Disorder of Women
Joyce Appleby, Liberalism and Republicanism in the Historical Imagination

Theme 3: Natural Right, Natural Law, and the Social Contract

For example:

Plato, Republic
Cicero, On the Commonwealth
Bigongiari, ed., The Political Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas
Grotius, The Rights of War and Peace
Hobbes, Leviathan
Locke, Second Treatise of Government
Tuck, Natural Rights Theories
Hopfl and Thompson, “The History of Contract as a Motif in Political Thought”
Rousseau, Social Contract; On the Origin of Inequality
Hume, “Of the Original Contract”
Rawls, A Theory of Justice

Theme 4: Philosophy of Social Science and Interpretive Methodology

For example:

Gadamer, Truth and Method
Strauss, “On a Forgotten Kind of Writing,” in What is Political Philosophy?
Gunnell, Political Theory: Tradition and Interpretation
Geertz, “Ideology as a Cultural System”
Feyerabend, *Against Method*
Alan Ryan, ed., *Philosophy of Social Explanation*
Collingwood, *An Autobiography*
Foucault, “Two Lectures”
Brian Fay, *Social Theory and Political Practice*
Popper, *The Poverty of Historicism*
Raymond Williams, Selections from *Marxism and Literature*
Moon, “The Logic of Political Inquiry,” in Greenstein and Polsby, ed., *Handbook of Political Science*
Taylor, “Interpretation and the Sciences of Man,” *Review of Metaphysics*, 1971
Winch, *The Idea of a Social Science*
Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
Fineman, Martha, *The Neutered Mother*
Fraser, Nancy, *Unruly Practices*
Harding, Sandra, *Feminism and Methodology*

**Theme 5: Politics of Identity**

For example:

Jacob Levy, *The Multiculturalism of Fear*
Connolly, *Identity/Difference*
Taylor, Charles, *Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition*
Cocks, Joan, *Passion and Paradox: Intellectuals Confront the National Question*
Brown, Wendy, *States of Injury*
Honneth, Axel, *The Struggle for Recognition*
Fraser, “From Redistribution to Recognition?” *Justice Interruptus*
Mayerfeld, “The Myth of Benign Group Identity” *Polity*
Stevens, *Reproducing the State*
Butler, Judith, *Bodies That Matter*
Honig, B., “Towards an Agonistic Feminism: Hannah Arendt and the Politics of Identity” in *Feminists Theorize the Political*
Benhabib, Seyla, *Claims of Culture*
Mills, Charles. *The Racial Contract*
Omi, Michael and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*
Phelan, Shane, *Getting Specific*
Riley, Denise, *Am I that Name?*
Young, Iris Marion, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*
Theme 6: Religion in Modernity

For example:

Locke, “Letter on Toleration”
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
Bennett, Jane, *The Enchantment of Modern Life*
Connolly, *Why I am Not a Secularist*
Huntington article in *Foreign Affairs*
Levinson, *Constitutional Faith*
Douglas, Ann, *Feminization of American Culture*
Heschel, Susannah, “Jesus as a Theological Transvestite,” in Peskowitz and Levitt, ed., *Judaism Since Gender*
Fowler, Robert Boot, *Religion and Politics in America*
Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*
Greenawalt, Kent, *Religious Convictions and Political Choice*
Lerner, Michael, *Spirit Matters*
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2

Theme 7: Ecological and Environmental Thought

For example:

David Abram, *The Spell of the Sensuous*
Ulrick Beck, *The Risk Society*
Jane Bennett, *Unthinking Faith and Enlightenment*
Murray Bookchin, *The Ecology of Freedom*
John Dryzek, *Rational Ecology*
Donna Haraway, *Simians, Cyborgs, and Nature*
Martin Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*
Thom Kuehls, *Beyond Sovereign Territory*
Val Plumwood, *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature*
Susan Griffin, *Woman and Nature*
Catriona Sandilands, *The Good Natured Feminist*, chp.8
Verena Andermatt Conley, *Ecopolitics: The Environment in Poststructuralist Thought*
Doug Torgerson, *The Promise of Green Politics*
Irene Diamond and Gloria Orenstein, eds. *Reweaving the World: the Emergence of Ecofeminism*
Leslie Paul Thiele, *Environmentalism for a New Mi*
Theme 8: Critical Theory and Post-Structuralism

For example:

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*
Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, vol 1: introduction; *Discipline and Punish; Power/Knowledge*
Butler, Judith, *Bodies That Matter*, “Contingent Foundations,” *Feminists Theorize the Political*
Mouffe and Laclau, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*
Connolly, *Political Theory and Modernity, Feminism/Postmodernism.*
Nicholson ed., *Feminism/Postmodernism*
Michael Kelly, ed., *Critique and Power: Recasting the Foucault/Habermas Debate*
White, Stephen, *Political Theory and Postmodernism*
Lyotard, *Postmodern Condition*
Irigaray, Luce, *The Irigary Reader*
Horkheimer and Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

Theme 9: Liberalism, Utilitarianism, Communitarianism

For example:

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*
J. S. Mill, *On Liberty; Utilitarianism*
Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*
Macpherson, *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*
Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty”
Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*
Shklar, *Ordinary Vices*
Macedo, *Liberal Virtues*
Dworkin, “What is Liberalism?”
Michael Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*
Michael Walzer, “The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism,” *Political Theory*
Alisdair McIntyre, *After Virtue*
George Kateb, *The Inner Ocean*
Wil Kymlicka, *Liberalism, Community and Culture; Multicultural Citizenship*
Douglass, Mara and Richardson eds., *Liberalism and the Good* (especially essay by Stephen Salkever)
Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*
Bellah, Robert et al, *Habits of the Heart*
Raz, *Liberal Perfectionism*
Singer, Peter, *Animal Liberation*
Aiken, ed., *Hume’s Moral and Political Philosophy*
Bentham, *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*
Smaat and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*
Ericson, David and Louisa Bertch Green. *The Liberal Tradition in American Politics*
Smith, Rogers. *Civic Ideals*
Taylor, Charles. *The Ethics of Authenticity*

**Theme 10: Democratic Theory and Equality**

For example:

Aristotle, *Politics*
Rousseau, *On the Origin of Inequality; Social Contract*
Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program”
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2
Thucydides, “Pericles’ Funeral Oration,” *History of the Peloponnesian Wars*
Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Barber, *Strong Democracy*
J. S. Mill, *Representative Government*
Manin, *Principles of Representative Government*
Pitkin, *Representation*
Rae, *Equalities*
Locke, *Second Treatise,*
MacPherson, *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy,*
Mouffe, *The Democratic Paradox,*
Benhabib, ed., *Democracy and Difference,*
Connolly, *Identity/Difference,*
Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory,*
Held, *Models of Democracy,*
Shapiro, ed. *Democracy’s Edges,*
Dahl (early and late)…
Phillips, *Engendering Democracy,*
Honig, *Democracy and the Foreigner,*
Dryzek, *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond,*
P. Kohn, “Language, Power and Persuasion,” *Constellations*
Warren, *Democracy and Association,*
Rosenblum, *Membership and Morals*
Guinier, Lani, *The Tyranny of the Majority*

**Theme 11: Feminism**

For example:

Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Elshtain, *Public Man, Private Woman*
Griffin, *Woman and Nature*
Hartsock, *Money, Sex, and Power*
Okin, *Women in Western Political Thought*
Benhabib, Seyla and Linda Nicholson, *Feminist Contentions*
Brown, Wendy, *Manhood and Politics*
Butler, Judith, *Gender Trouble*
Collins, Patricia Hill, *Black Feminist Thought*
Cornell, Drucilla, *Beyond Accommodation*
Hirschman, Nancy, *Rethinking Obligation*
Pateman and Gross, *Feminist Challenges: Social and Political Theory*
Pateman, Carole. *The Sexual Contract*
Rich, Adrienne, “Compulsory Heterosexuality”
Shanley and Pateman, *Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory*
Spelman, Elizabeth, *Inessential Woman*
Tronto, Joan, *Moral Boundaries*
Young, Iris Marion, “Gender as Seriality,” in *Intersecting Voices*

**Theme 12: Justice and Law**

For example:

Plato, *Republic*
Aristotle, *Politics*
Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*
Augustine, *City of God*
Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
Conley, John and William O’Barr. *Just Words*
Cornell, Drucilla, *Beyond Accommodation*
Ely, John Hart, *Democracy and Distrust*
Fuller, Lon, “The Speluncean Explorers”
Frank, Jerome, *Courts on Trial or Law and the Modern Mind*
Kairys, David, *The Politics of Law*
MacKinnon, Catharine, *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*
Minow, Martha, Not Only for Myself
Tushnet, Mark, Red, White, and Blue
Unger, Roberto, Democracy Realized
Walzer, Spheres of Justice,
Young, Justice and the Politics of Difference,
Fraser, Justice Interruptus and Young, “Unruly Categories,” New Left Review, Fraser,
“Response to Young.” New Left Review
Shapiro, Democratic Justice
Harvey, David, “Class Relations, Social Justice and the Political Geography of
Difference” Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference
Robert Cover, “Violence and the Word” Yale Law Journal
Roger Cotterrell, The Politics of Jurisprudence: A Critical Introduction to Legal
Philosophy

Theme 13: Marxism, Socialism, and Anarchism

For example:

Friedrich, ed., The Philosophy of Hegel
Engels, The Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State
Lenin, What Is To Be Done?: State and Revolution
Kolakowski, Considerations on Western Marxism
Anderson, Main Currents of Western Marxism
Bernstein, Praxis and Action
Avineri, Karl Marx: Social and Political Thought
Gramsci, Prison Notebooks
Dolgoff, ed., Bakunin on Anarchy
Edwards, ed., Selected Writings of P. J. Proudhon
Fried and Sanders, ed., Socialist Thought
Sorel, Reflections on Violence
Woodcock, The Anarchist Reader
Taylor, Community, Anarchy, and Liberty