

# Political Theory

## Themes for Comprehensive Examinations: 2016-17

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?*

Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," *History and Theory* 8 (1969): 8-53.

Dunn, "The Identity of the History of Ideas," *Philosophy* 43 (1968): 85-104.

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*  
Kymlicka, "Three Forms of Group-Differentiated Citizenship in Canada" in Benhabib ed, *Democracy and Difference, and Liberalism, Community and Culture*  
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*  
Fields, Barbara J. "Ideology and Race in American History." In *Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward*. Eds. J Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson. New York: Oxford University Press 1982. Pp. 143-77.  
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: Comparative Political Theory**

For example:

### Comparative Political Thought

Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*  
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*  
Edward Said, *Orientalism*  
Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"  
Mahatma Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*  
Mahatma Phule, selections  
B. R. Ambedkar, "The Abolition of Caste"  
CA Bayly, *Reclaiming Liberties*  
Kautilya, selections from the *Arthashastra*  
Confucius, *Analects*  
Mencius, selections  
Han Fei, selections  
Kang Youwei, *The Great Harmony*  
Hu Shih, selections from the *English Writings of Hu Shi*  
Alfarabi, selections  
Averroes, selections  
Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones*  
Muhammad Iqbal, *Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*  
Hasan al-Bana, *Toward the Light*  
Leigh Jenco, "What Does Heaven Ever Say?"  
Fred Dallmayr, "Toward a Comparative Political Theory"  
Andrew March, "What is Comparative Political Theory?"  
Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*  
Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments*  
Anibal Quijano, "Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality"  
Maria Lugones, "Toward a Decolonial Feminism"  
Fred Dallmayr, *Comparative Political Theory: An Introduction*  
Farah Godrej, *Cosmopolitan Political Theory*  
Matthew Moore, *Buddhism and Political Theory*  
Margaret Kohn and Keally McBride, *Political Theories of Decolonization*

## **Theme 7: American Political Thought**

For example:

John Winthrop, "Model of Christian Charity"  
Reinhold Niebuhr, *Irony of American History*

Montesqueiu, *Spirit of the Laws*  
*Federalist Papers*  
 Selected Anti-Federalist Papers  
 Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*  
 Locke, *Second Treatise*  
 Hartz, *Liberal Tradition in America*  
 Pocock, *Machiavellian Moment*  
 Alex Gourevtich, *Slavery to Cooperative Commonwealth*  
 Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*  
 Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*  
 Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (selections), selected letters  
 Stanton & Motts, *Declaration of Sentiments*  
 Bernard Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*  
 Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*  
 David Walker, *Appeal*  
 James Baldwin, *Fire Next Time*  
 Ida B Wells, selections  
 Martin Luther King Jr., selections  
 Malcolm X, selections  
 Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*; "Fourth of July" speech  
 George Fitzhugh, *Sociology for the South*  
 Russel Kirk, *The Conservative Mind*  
 Walt Whitman, *Democratic Vistas*  
 Elias Boudinot, "Address to the Whites"  
 William Apess, *Eulogy on King Philip*

### **Theme 8: Critical Theory and Post-Structuralism**

For example:

Nietzsche, From "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense," *The Portable Nietzsche*, pp. 42-47.

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*

Derrida, Jacques. "Declarations of Independence." Translated by T. Keenan and T. Pepper. *New Political Science* 15 (Summer 1986), 3-19.

Honig, Bonnie "Declarations of Independence: Arendt and Derrida on the Problem of Founding a Republic." *The American political science review*, 1991, vol. 85, no. 1, pp. 97

Brown, Wendy, "At the Edge" *Political Theory*, 2002, vol. 30, no. 4, pp. 556-576

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 Irigaray 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"  
Rawls, "Justice as Fairness," "Distributive Justice," "A Well-Ordered Society," "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical"  
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*  
Charles Taylor, "Atomism" in *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical Papers 2*  
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*  
Harsanyi, "Does Reason Tell Us What Moral Code to Follow . . .?," *Ethics* (1985)  
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*  
Mill, "On the Subjection of Women"  
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*  
Dietz, "Feminism & Theories of Citizenship," *Daedalus* (fall, 1987): 1-24.  
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:

Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
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*  
Dolgoft, 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*

#### **Theme 14: Theories of Affect, Aesthetics, and Embodiment**

For example:

Plato, *Republic*  
Augustine, *Confessions*  
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*  
Hume – *Treatise on Human Nature*  
Nietzsche – *Genealogy of Morals, Birth of Tragedy*  
Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Discipline and Punish*  
Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*  
Adorno, *The Culture Industry*  
Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*  
Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*:  
    Chapters I (Introduction), VII (The Manifest Content of Dreams and the Latent  
    Dream-Thoughts), Chapters XI (The Dream-Work), XVII (The Sense of  
    Symptoms), Chapters XVIII (Fixation to Traumas—The Unconscious), XIX  
    (Resistance and Repression)  
Iris Marion Young, *On Female Body Experience: “Throwing Like a Girl” and Other  
Essays*  
Luce Irigaray, *This Sex Which is Not One*  
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*.  
Eve Sedgwick, *Touching Feeling*. Duke, 2003.  
Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter*  
John Protevi, *Political Affect*, University of Minnesota Press, 2009.  
Bill Connolly, *Neuropolitics*, University of Minnesota Press, 2002.  
Lisa Guenther, *Solitary Confinement*, University of Minnesota Press, 2013.  
Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism*  
Eva Illouz, *Cold Intimacies*, New York: Polity, 2007.  
Ruth Leys, “The Turn to Affect: A Critique,” *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (Spring  
2011), pp. 434-472.  
Richard Shusterman, *Thinking Through the Body: Essays in Somaesthetics*.  
William Connolly, *Neuropolitics*

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*.  
Brian Massumi, *Parables for the Virtual: Movement, Affect, Sensation*.  
Davide Panagia, *The Political Life of Sensation*  
Jacques Rancière, *Disagreement and Politics of Aesthetics*