Political Theory

Themes for Comprehensive Examinations: 2020-21

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, Essay on the Origin of Inequality and 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; On the Subjection of Women
Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals
Arendt, The Human Condition
Foucault, Discipline and Punish
Rawls, A Theory of Justice
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
Pettit, Republicanism and Just Freedom
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
Jacob Levy, “Contrapolitanism” and “Not So Novus an Ordo : Constitutions Without Social Contracts”
Simmons, Moral Principles and Political Obligations
Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia

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*
Brown, Wendy, *States of Injury*
Honneth, Axel, *The Struggle for Recognition*
Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*
Hendrix, *Strategies of Justice*
Patten, *Equal Recognition*
Okin, *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*
Coulthard, *Red Skins, White Masks*
Fraser, “From Redistribution to Recognition?” *Justice Interruptus*
Mayerfeld, “The Myth of Benign Group Identity” *Polity*
Stevens, *Reproducing the State*
Butler, *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*
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*
J. Babb, *A World History of Political Thought*
Kautilya, selections from the *Arthasastra*
Confucius, *Analects*
Mencius, selections
Han Fei, selections
Kang Youwei, selections from *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*
Murad Idris, *War For Peace*
Stuart Gray, *A Defense of Rule*
Theme 7: American Political Thought

For example:

John Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity”
Reinhold Niebuhr, Irony of American History
Montesquieu, 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 Gourevitch, 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, 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
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
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,*
Macypherson, *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*
Sally Haslanger, “Future Races? Future Genders” and “Gender and Race: What do We Want Them to Be?”
Miranda Fricker, “Powerlessness and Social Interpretation”

**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*

**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.*
Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter*
Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism*
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*

**Theme 15: Critical Race Theory**

For example:

Cheryl Harris, “Whiteness as Property.”
Jack Turner, *Awakening to Race: Individualism and Social Consciousness in America*
George Shulman, *American Prophecy: Race and Redemption in American Political Culture*
Neil Roberts, *Freedom as Marronage*.
Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body*
Cathy Cohen, “Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics”
Mills, *From Class to Race; The Racial Contract*
Robinson, *Black Marxism*
Bonilla-Silva, *Racism Without Racists*
DuBois, *Black Reconstruction*
West, *Race Matters*
Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
Delgado, *Critical Race Theory*
Bell, *Race, Racism, and American Law; Faces at the Bottom of the Well*
Crenshaw, *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement; “Mapping the Margins”*
hooks, *From Margin to Center*
Lipsitz, *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness*
Spillers, “Mama’s Baby, Papa’s Maybe”
López, *White By Law*
Roberts, *Killing the Black Body*
Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*
Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*
Williams, *The Alchemy of Race and Rights*
Sharpe, *In the Wake*
Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*
Morrison, “Playing in the Dark”
Wilderson III, *Afropessimism*