

Political Theory

Field of Study Exam Instructions & Reading List

Updated September 2021

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE POLITICAL THEORY FIELD OF STUDY EXAMINATION

I. STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL THEORY POLITICS FOS EXAMINATION

The Political Theory FoS examination has three sections. Each section will have a number of questions that the student may choose from. Students will be expected to answer one question per section in a three-hour period.

Section 1. Classics in Political Theory: Section 1 includes knowledge of the classics of political thought sufficient to teach a course similar to our POLI 310 .

Section 2. General Themes in Political Theory: Section 2 includes knowledge of a specialized part of political theory sufficient to teach an undergraduate elective, e.g., the political thought of a specific period (such as ancient, medieval, early modern, modern Anglo-American, modern Continental, contemporary, or post-modern) or a particular broad theme: freedom, justice, nationalism, equality, democracy, and so on.

Section 3. Specialized Topic in Political Theory: Section 3 includes knowledge of some highly specialized topic of personal interest to the student, sufficient to teach a guided readings course at the graduate or advanced undergraduate level, e.g., sexual ethics, warfare, global justice, literature and politics, or in-depth study of a work or works centred around a particular thinker.

II. RECOMMENDED PREPARATORY COURSE WORK

The Political Theory Field Caucus does not formally tie particular courses to particular sections of the FoS written examination. Students should consult with their Supervisor and look at the reading list below when selecting courses as preparation for the Political Theory FoS written examination.

III. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE POLITICAL THEORY FOS EXAMINATION

None.

READING LIST FOR THE POLITICAL THEORY FIELD OF STUDY EXAMINATION

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I. CLASSICS IN POLITICAL THEORY

A. Ancient & Medieval Political Thought

(Arranged Chronologically)

Plato	<i>Apology</i>
	<i>Crito</i>
	<i>Gorgias</i>
	<i>Laws (esp. Bks. X and XII)</i>
	<i>Republic</i>
Aristotle	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
	<i>Politics</i>
Augustine	<i>The Confessions</i>
	<i>The City of God</i>
Aquinas	<i>On Law, Morality and Politics (edited by William P. Baumgarth)</i>

B. Modern Political thought (16th–18th Century)

(Arranged Chronologically)

Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i>
	<i>The Discourses</i>
More	<i>Utopia</i>
Hobbes	<i>Leviathan</i>

Locke	<i>First Treatises of Government</i>
	<i>Second Treatise of Government</i>
	<i>First Letter on Toleration</i>
Madison et al.	<i>The Federalist Papers</i>
Rousseau	<i>Discourse on the Arts and Sciences</i>
	<i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i>
	<i>Social Contract</i>
	<i>Emile</i>
	<i>Considerations on the Government of Poland</i>
Adam Smith	<i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>
	<i>The Wealth of Nations</i>
Kant	<i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>
	<i>Perpetual Peace</i>
	<i>On the Common Saying 'This may be true in theory...'</i>
	<i>What is Enlightenment</i>
Burke	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>
	<i>Vindication of Natural Society</i>
	<i>Speech on Economical Concerns</i>
	<i>Thoughts and Details on Scarcity</i>
	<i>Appeal from New to Old Whigs</i>

C. 19th–20th & contemporary Political thought

(Arranged Chronologically)

Hegel	<i>Philosophy of Right</i>
	<i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (Preface and Introduction, Consciousness, Self-Consciousness, VI.A – True Spirit, VI.B.iii – Absolute Freedom, Absolute Knowing)
Bentham	<i>Principles of Morals and Legislation</i>
J.S. Mill	<i>Utilitarianism</i>
	<i>On Liberty</i>
	<i>On the Subjection of Women</i>

	<i>On Representative Government</i>
Marx	<i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts (esp. Estranged Labour and The Power of Money')</i>
	<i>Theses on Feuerbach</i>
	<i>The German Ideology</i>
	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
Nietzsche	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>
	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>

II. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS

Larry Arnhart	<i>Political Questions</i>
Terrence Ball,	<i>Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal</i>
S. I. Benn and R. S. Peters	<i>Social Principles and the Democratic State</i>
Valerie Bryson	<i>Feminist Political Theory: An Introduction</i>
William E. Connolly	<i>Political Theory & Modernity</i>
Anthony de Crespigny and Kenneth Minogue (eds.)	<i>Contemporary Political Philosophers</i>
Will Kymlicka,	<i>Contemporary Political Philosophy</i>
David Knowles	<i>The Evolution of Medieval Thought</i>
John Plamenatz	<i>Man and the State, vols. 1 & 2</i>
JGA Pocock	<i>Political Thought and History</i>
George H. Sabine	<i>A History of Political Theory</i>
Mary Lyndon Shanley & Carole Pateman (eds)	<i>Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory</i>
Quentin Skinner	<i>Visions of Politics</i>
Leo Strauss	<i>Natural Right and History</i>
James L. Wiser	<i>Political Philosophy: History of the Search for Order</i>
Sheldon Wolin	<i>Politics and Vision</i>