

**POLS Political Theory Subfield
PhD Comprehensive Exam Policy**

- I) Field Designation and Exam Structure
 - A) In consultation with their faculty advisor, and with the approval of the political theory subfield, students will designate if political theory will be a Field of Specialization (FOS) or a Field of Competence (FOC) for their PhD studies.
 - B) Field of Specialization (FOS)
 - i) Those who designate political theory as an FOS must pass at least four political theory courses with a grade of B+ or higher before taking the exam.
 - ii) Their exam will comprise both the research paper and the annotated syllabus. They must pass both components to pass the PhD exam. If they do not pass a single component at their first attempt, they will only retake that component during their second attempt. If they fail either component twice, they fail the exam.
 - iii) Those who designate political theory as an FOS must take a fifth course with significant political theory content, either graded or as an audit, prior to defending their dissertation.
 - C) Field of Competence (FOC)
 - i) Those who designate political theory as an FOC must pass at least four political theory courses with a grade of B+ or higher before taking the exam.
 - ii) Their exam will comprise the annotated syllabus. If they do not pass at their first attempt, they may only attempt the exam a second time. If they fail at their second attempt, they fail the exam.
- II) Research Paper:
 - A) The student will submit a single-authored research paper of between 8,000 and 12,000 words all-inclusive, which may be based upon a previously written, unpublished paper.
 - B) They will identify a target journal for the paper and must note this choice on the manuscript's title page. The format and style of the submission must meet the standards of the target journal, with the possible exception of the previously-stated word-length requirement. The student does not need to submit the paper to any journal.
 - C) A three-member faculty committee will read the paper and each member will issue a single rating of "Accept," "Revise and Resubmit," or "Reject." Two or more ratings of "Accept" will result in a grade of "pass with distinction" for the exam. Two or more ratings of "Revise and Resubmit" or better will result in a grade of "pass" for the exam. Two or more ratings of "Reject" will result in a grade of "fail" for the exam. Each committee member will provide written feedback to the student.
- III) Annotated Syllabus:
 - A) The student will submit an annotated syllabus for a 14-week, first-year, graduate-level course that introduces students to the field of political theory.
 - B) This should cover a broad range of historical political thinkers and a variety of different approaches to and themes in political theory. The student must include a clear, written defense of their choices regarding the overall structure of the syllabus, including why figures, texts, and themes covered are indispensable to orienting students to the field of political theory. Students should consult the Highly Recommended and Recommended sources from the Political Theory subfield PhD reading list in constructing their syllabus.
 - C) The syllabus must contain a statement of the overall pedagogical goals of the course and a list of specific assignments with clear justifications for how they help achieve those goals.
 - D) For each week, the syllabus must include:

- i) a complete description of that week's topics or themes, connecting them, as appropriate, with themes from weeks that precede and follow it, and specific pedagogical goals,
 - ii) a detailed reading list, including annotations, for each reading; the annotations should be between 100 and 150 words for each article or group of two or fewer chapters from a book and 200 to 250 words for each book or group of three or more chapters from a book.
- E) A three-member faculty committee will read the syllabus and provide written feedback to the student. If the committee deems the syllabus as not possibly passing based upon the overall quality of the written syllabus, it will assign the student a grade of "fail" for the exam. If the committee deems the syllabus as possibly passing, the student must subsequently participate in an oral defense of the syllabus with the committee. At the end of the oral defense, the committee will assign the student a grade of "pass with distinction," "pass," or "fail" based upon the overall quality of the written syllabus and the oral defense.

Political Theory Graduate Exam Readings List

This list contains authors and readings identified by the political theory subfield faculty as being especially important in the field or having influenced their own work profoundly. The "Highly Recommended" list includes works that many, if not all, of the faculty believe it is important for graduate students in political theory to read. Graduate students planning on sitting for a Ph.D. field exam in political theory should be conversant with these works. The "Recommended" list includes works that at least one faculty member identified as indispensable to the field or their own work and that other faculty also consider significant. Graduate students should use this list as a resource as they prepare for their Ph.D. field exam, explore topics of interest in more depth, and begin the process of writing their dissertation prospectus.

Students should treat the works listed here as *starting points* for their intellectual development. Every student will be expected to explore additional works that relate to the student's research interests and general curiosity.

Highly Recommended

1. Alfarabi, "The Political Regime" in *Medieval Political Philosophy*, edited by Ralph Lerner and Muhsin Mahdi. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1963, pages 31-57; Alfarabi, "Selected Aphorisms," "Enumeration of the Sciences," and "Book of Religion" in *Alfarabi: The Political Writings*, translated and annotated by Charles E. Butterworth. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001, pages 3-67, 71-84, 87-113.
2. Anzaldua, *La Frontera/Borderlands*
3. Arendt, choose two of the following: *The Origins of Totalitarianism*; *On Revolution*; *The Human Condition*
4. Aristotle, *The Politics*
5. Boff and Boff, *Introducing Liberation Theology*
6. Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
7. Confucius, *Analects*
8. *Critical Theory: Adorno and Horkheimer, Dialectic of Enlightenment* or Marcuse, *Eros & Civilization*
9. de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
10. Deloria, *Custer Died for Your Sins*
11. Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk* (all); *Black Reconstruction in American 1860-1880*. New York: The Free Press, chapters 1-6, 9, and 17.
12. Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*
13. Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Volume 1; Discipline and Punish*
14. Goldman, *Anarchism and Other Essays*
15. Gramsci, *Selections from The Prison Notebooks*
16. Hegel, *Political Writings* (Oxford U. Press)
17. Hobbes, *Leviathan*
18. *Intersectionality: Grzanka, Intersectionality: A Foundations and Frontiers Reader* or Hancock, *Intersectionality: An Intellectual History*
19. Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*
20. King, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*; *Where do we go from here?*
21. Lenin, choose one: *What Is to Be Done*; *State and Revolution*; or *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*
22. Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*
23. Lukács, *History and Class Consciousness*

24. Machiavelli, *The Prince*; selections from *Discourses of Livy* in *The Portable Machiavelli*, Trans. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa
25. Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, *The Federalist Papers*
26. Malcolm X, *Malcolm X Speaks*
27. Marx and Engels, selections from *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker: *On the Jewish Question*, *The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, *German Ideology*, *Capital Volume One*, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*, and *Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*
28. Mill, *On Liberty*
29. Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*
30. Plato, *Apology*; *The Republic*
31. Qutb, *Islam and Social Justice; Signposts Along the Road*
32. Rawls, *Political Liberalism*
33. Robinson, *Black Marxism*
34. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men; On the Social Contract*
35. Said, *Orientalism*
36. Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism*
37. Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Recommended

38. Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*
39. Althusser, *For Marx*
40. Aquinas, selections from *Summa contra Gentiles*, *De Regimine Principum*, and *Summa Theologiae* in *St. Thomas Aquinas on Politics and Ethics*, Paul E. Sigmund, trans. and ed., W.W. Norton, 1-83.
41. Augustine, *City of God* (selections found in either *Augustine: Political Writings* (Hackett Classics) or *The Political Writings of St. Augustine Gateway Edition*)
42. Bakunin, *God and the State*
43. Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*
44. Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism*
45. Bhabha, *The Location of Culture*
46. Biko, *I Write What I Like: Selected Essays*
47. Cabral, *Revolution in Guinea*
48. Cassirer, *An Essay on Man: An Introduction to a Philosophy of Human Culture*
49. Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*
50. Constant, *The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns*
51. Cooper, *On Education; What are We Worth?; Woman versus the Indian* (selections available in *The Voice of Anna Julia Cooper: Including A Voice from the South and Other Important Essays, Papers, and Letters*; edited by Charles Lemert and Esme Bahn)
52. Davis, *Women, Race and Class*
53. Deer, *The Beginning and End of Rape*
54. Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*
55. de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies*
56. de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics* (selections available in *Critical Theory Since Plato*, edited by Hazard Adams)
57. de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
58. Dewey, *The Public and Its Problems*
59. Dussel, *Twenty Theses on Politics*
60. Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*

61. Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
62. Federici, *Caliban and the Witch*
63. Foucault, *Birth of Biopolitics*
64. Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents; Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*
65. Goldman, *Living My Life; Red Emma Speaks*
66. Gramsci, *The Southern Question*
67. Guha, *Dominance without Hegemony*
68. Gutierrez, *A Theology of Liberation*
69. Habermas, *The Inclusion of the Other (a collection of essays); Knowledge and Human Interests or Philosophical Discourses of Modernity*
70. Hartsock, *Money, Sex and Power*
71. Ibn Rushd (Averroes), *Determining What the Connection is Between Religion and Philosophy; On Plato's Republic; The Decisive Treatise*
72. Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
73. James, C.L.R., *The Black Jacobins*
74. Jaspers, *The Question of German Guilt*
75. Kant, *Perpetual Peace*
76. Kautsky, *The Dictatorship of the Proletariat*
77. Khoemini, *Islam and Revolution*
78. King, *I Have a Dream*
79. Kropotkin, *Mutual Aid; Law and Authority*
80. Laclau and Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*
81. Lowe, *Intimacies of Four Continents*
82. Luxemburg, *selections from The Accumulation of Capital; selections from Introduction to Political Economy; Slavery; Martinique; The Russian Revolution; Writings on Women (all available in The Rosa Luxemburg Reader; edited by Peter Hudis and Kevin B. Anderson)*
83. Manin, Bernard. 1987. "On Legitimacy and Political Deliberation." *Political Theory* 15 (3): 338-368.
84. Mao, *Mao Tse-tung on Revolution and War*
85. Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man*
86. Mariátegui, *Seven Interpretative Essays on Peruvian Reality*
87. Marsilius of Padua, *The Defender of the Peace (Discourse One)*
88. Mencius, *Mencius*
89. Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*
90. Mills, *The Racial Contract*
91. Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*
92. More, *Utopia*
93. Mussolini, *Four Speeches on the Corporate State*
94. Nyerere, *Essays on Socialism*
95. Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics*
96. Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses*
97. Paine, *Common Sense*
98. Pateman, *The Sexual Contract*
99. Proudhon, *What is Property?*
100. Ranciere, *Disagreement; Hatred of Democracy*
101. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*
102. Robinson, *The Terms of Order*
103. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*
104. Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political; Nomos of the Earth*

105. Shariati, Man and Islam
106. Smith, The Theory of Moral Sentiments
107. Spinoza, Tractatus Politicus
108. Strauss, Leo. 1957. "What is Political Philosophy?" The Journal of Politics 19 (3): 343-368.
109. Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (selections)
110. Todorov, The Conquest of America
111. Weber, From Max Weber (especially the bureaucracy essays, the state power and charismatic authority essays, and the vocation essays)
112. Wolin, Sheldon S. 1969. "Political Theory as a Vocation." The American Political Science Review 63 (4): 1062-1082.