POLS Political Theory Subfield
PhD Comprehensive Exam Policy

I) Field Designation and Exam Structure
   A) Students must pass four political theory courses with a grade of B or higher and with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in those courses before taking the exam.
   B) 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.
   C) Field of Specialization (FOS)
      i) The exam for those who designate political theory as an FOS 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 re-take that component during their second attempt. If they fail either component twice, they fail the exam.
      ii) 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.
   D) Field of Competence (FOC)
      i) The exam for those who designate political theory as an FOC 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research paper of between 8,000 and 12,000 words all-inclusive, which may be based upon a previously written, unpublished paper.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
2. Anzaldúa, 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
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
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
26. Malcolm X, Malcolm X Speaks
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
37. Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman

**Recommended**
38. Astell, A Serious Proposal to the Ladies
39. Althusser, For Marx
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
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)
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
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)