

Department of Political Science Political Theory Field Statement

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Students who wish to declare Political Theory as one of their two primary areas of concentration must take at least three graduate level courses listed under the Political Theory section of the University Bulletin. It is expected that students designating Political Theory as a major field will have gained, by the end of their fifth quarter of residence, a good foundation in the political thought of three primary periods: classical (Greek and to some extent Roman), early modern (17th-19th century) and contemporary (20th and 21st century).

Each year, the faculty will offer courses that focus exclusively upon, or will include substantial reading in, each of the above areas. Students should consult with their mentors and with the Political Theory field convenor to plan which of the available courses at the 300- and 400-level (including directed reading courses) will be most appropriate in light of the student's previous preparation. Students should also be familiar with the selections on the Core Reading list for Political Theory (available from Graduate Administrator).

Comprehensive exams in Political Theory are written individually for each student, in consideration of the courses the student has taken and his/her other preparation, and with an expectation of familiarity with readings on the Core Reading list.

The Political Theory Workshop is an important forum for students to learn about and engage with new work in the field. Students who designate Political Theory as their first field are required to enroll in the Workshop for at least one quarter and must present a paper in the Workshop at some point (not necessarily in the quarter in which they are enrolled). Theory students, regardless of enrollment, are very strongly encouraged to attend the Workshop regularly over the course of the year.

Political Theory Core Reading List (valid through Spring 2010)

Anderson, "What Is the Point of Equality?" (Ethics 109, pp. 287-337).
Aristotle - Nicomachean Ethics
Aristotle - Politics
Bentham - Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation
Berlin - "Two Concepts of Liberty"
Burke - Reflections on the Revolution in France
Cohen - Karl Marx's Theory of History: or On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice
Dahl - Democracy and its Critics
Durkheim - Division of Labor in Society

Federalist papers
Foucault –Discipline and Punish
Habermas - Moral Consciousness and Comm. Action or Between Facts and Norms
Hart - The Concept of Law
Hegel - Philosophy of History or Philosophy of Right
Hobbes – Leviathan
Kant - Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals
Kant - Political Writings, ed. Reiss
Locke - “A Letter Concerning Toleration”
Locke - Second Treatise on Government
Machiavelli - Prince
Machiavelli – Discourses on Livy
Marx - Communist Manifesto
Marx - German Ideology
Marx - Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy
Mill - On Liberty
Mill - Utilitarianism
Mill - Representative Government
Nagel - The Problem of Global Justice
Nietzsche – Beyond Good and Evil or Genealogy of Morals
Nozick - Anarchy, State and Utopia
Okin – Justice, Gender and the Family
Plato - Apology
Plato - Gorgias
Plato - Republic
Rawls - Law of Peoples
Rawls - Political Liberalism
Rawls - Theory of Justice
Raz - The Morality of Freedom
Rousseau - Discourse on Inequality
Rousseau - Social Contract
Schmitt - Concept of the Political
Sen - Inequality Reexamined
Taylor – Sources of the Self
Thucydides - The History of the Peloponnesian War
Walzer - Spheres of Justice
Weber – Economy and Society
Williams - Moral Luck