

# 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?*  
 Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," *History and Theory* 8  
 (1969): 8-53.  
 Dunn, "The Identity of the History of Ideas," *Philosophy* 43 (1968): 85-104.  
 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*  
 Fields, Barbara J. "Ideology and Race in American History." In *Region, Race, and  
 Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward*. Eds. J Morgan Kousser  
 and James M. McPherson. New York: Oxford University Press 1982. Pp. 143-

77.

Mills, Charles. *The Racial Contract*  
Omi, Michael and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*  
Phelan, Shane, *Getting Specific*  
Riley, Denise, *Am I that Name?*  
Young, Iris Marion, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*

## **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 *Arthashastra*  
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 Gourevtich, *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, From "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense," *The Portable Nietzsche*, pp. 42-47.  
Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*  
Derrida, Jacques. "Declarations of Independence." Translated by T. Keenan and T. Pepper. *New Political Science* 15 (Summer 1986), 3-19.  
Honig, Bonnie "Declarations of Independence: Arendt and Derrida on the Problem of Founding a Republic." *The American political science review*, 1991, vol. 85, no. 1, pp. 97

Brown, Wendy, "At the Edge" *Political Theory*, 2002, vol. 30, no. 4, pp. 556-576  
 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*  
 Lyotard, *Postmodern Condition*  
 Irigaray, Luce, *The Irigaray 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"  
 Rawls, "Justice as Fairness," "Distributive Justice," "A Well-Ordered Society," "Justice  
 as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical"  
 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*  
 Charles Taylor, "Atomism" in *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical  
 Papers 2*  
 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*  
 Harsanyi, "Does Reason Tell Us What Moral Code to Follow . . .?," *Ethics* (1985)

Ericson, David and Louisa Bertch Green. *The Liberal Tradition in American Politics*  
Smith, Rogers. *Civic Ideals*  
Taylor, Charles. *The Ethics of Authenticity*

### **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*,  
MacPherson, *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*  
Mill, "On the Subjection of Women"  
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*  
 Dietz, "Feminism & Theories of Citizenship," *Daedalus* (fall, 1987): 1-24.  
 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:

Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
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*  
Dolgoft, 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*.

Eve Sedgwick, *Touching Feeling*. Duke, 2003.  
Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter*  
John Protevi, *Political Affect*, University of Minnesota Press, 2009.  
Bill Connolly, *Neuropolitics*, University of Minnesota Press, 2002.  
Lisa Guenther, *Solitary Confinement*, University of Minnesota Press, 2013.  
Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism*  
Eva Illouz, *Cold Intimacies*, New York: Polity, 2007.  
Ruth Leys, "The Turn to Affect: A Critique," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (Spring 2011), pp. 434-472.  
Richard Shusterman, *Thinking Through the Body: Essays in Somaesthetics*.  
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*.  
"A Most Disagreeable Mirror: Race Consciousness as Double Consciousness." Lawrie Balfour, *A Political Companion to James Baldwin*  
Singh, N. (2004) *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*  
Omi, M., & Winant, H. (1994) *Racial Formation in the United States*.  
Cohen, C. (1999) *Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics*  
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*