Political Theory Field Statement

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The following requirements apply to students who entered the PhD program in 2018-19 and to students who entered the PhD program in 2017-18 who opted into this system. All other students should refer to the program guide and field statement for the year they entered the program.

Refer to Chapter 2 of the Program Guide for additional important information on the department’s requirements for advancing to candidacy.

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. During their first and second years, students are expected to become conversant with the selections on the Political Theory Core Reading List (see below).

Pre-candidacy Requirements for 1st Field Political Theory Students

In order to be eligible to advance to candidacy with Political Theory as a first field, students must:

1) Complete four PT courses for five units each with a grade of A- or above. Three of these courses ought to be core courses in Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary theory. The fourth class is elective. These classes must be taken in addition to the one class all Poli Sci PhD students must take to fulfill the Political Theory program requirement (see below for a list of classes that fulfill that requirement.)

In 2018-19 the core classes are:
- Contemporary: PS 437C 20th Century and Contemporary Political Theory (Chapman, Fall)
- Ancient: PS 330A Origins of Political Thought, (Ober, Winter)
- Modern: PS 432R Selections in Modern Political Thought (McQueen, Spring)

In 2018-19, the elective class options are:
- PS 333M Research and Methods in Political Theory (Reich, Winter; for students in year 2+)
- PS 337A: Political Philosophy: The Social Contract Tradition (Hills, Winter)
- PS 338 Universal Basic Income (Bidadanure, Spring)
- PS 438R The Greeks and the Rational (Ober, Spring)

Students who would like to deviate from the core and/or elective options must receive permission from the field convenor. Students will be evaluated on class performance and substantial papers written in these classes.

2) Comprehensive Exam: Students taking PT as a first field must pass a PT Comprehensive Exam in spring quarter of their second year. This will be in the form of an individual oral exam of ca. 1.5 hours, conducted by at least two faculty members in the subfield. The exam is based on courses taken by the student and the Reading List. The
exam will be on a Pass/Fail basis. The examiners will prepare a written report on the exam, noting both strengths and weaknesses; that report will be shared with the student and with other members of the subfield.

3) Field Paper: Students taking PT as a first field will write a field paper in PT. See section 2.4 of the Program Guide for additional details on the field paper requirement.

Pre-candidacy Requirements for 2nd Field Political Theory Students

In order to be eligible to advance to candidacy with Political Theory as a second field, students must complete three PT courses for five units each with a grade of A- or above. These courses ought to be core courses in Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary theory. These classes must be taken in addition to the one class all Poli Sci PhD students must take to fulfill the Political Theory program requirement (see below for a list of classes that fulfill that requirement).

In 2018-19 the core classes are:

- Contemporary: PS 437C 20th Century and Contemporary Political Theory (Chapman, Fall)
- Ancient: PS 330A Origins of Political Thought, (Ober, Winter)
- Modern: PS 432R Selections in Modern Political Thought (McQueen, Spring)

Students who would like to deviate from the core and/or elective options must receive permission from the field convenor. Students will be evaluated on class performance and substantial papers written in these classes.

Students with PT as a second subfield do not take a PT comprehensive exam or write a PT field paper.

Pre-candidacy Requirements for 3rd Field Political Theory Students

In order to be eligible to advance to candidacy with Political Theory as a third field, students must complete two PhD level courses in Political Theory for at least 3 units each with grades of B or better. These courses ought to be two of the three core courses in Ancient, Modern, or Contemporary theory. These classes must be taken in addition to the one class all Poli Sci PhD students must take to fulfill the Political Theory program requirement (see below for a list of classes that fulfill the PT requirement).

In 2018-19 the core classes are:

- Contemporary: PS 437C 20th Century and Contemporary Political Theory (Chapman, Fall)
- Ancient: PS 330A Origins of Political Thought, (Ober, Winter)
- Modern: PS 432R Selections in Modern Political Thought (McQueen, Spring)

Advancement to Candidacy

Each spring, in advance of the department meeting to review graduates, the members of the subfield will convene to discuss students taking first or second fields in the subfield. On the basis of this meeting, the Field Convener will prepare a candidacy recommendation for the Director of Graduate Studies concerning each PT first field student in their second year, or any PT first field student beyond their second year who has not yet advanced to candidacy. The basis of the recommendation will be performance in courses, Field Paper, and the Comprehensive Exam. Refer to Chapter 2 of the Program Guide for additional important information on the department’s requirements for advancing to candidacy.

Political Theory Workshop (PS 433)

First-field PT students in their first year are expected to enroll in the workshop each quarter. PT first-field students after their first year, and PT second- and third-field students, are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop, whether enrolled in it for credit or not.
The Political Theory Requirement

All students in the PhD program must take at least one course in Political Theory before advancing to candidacy. This class must be taken for 5 units and a letter grade of B or better.

Courses that fulfill this requirement in 2018-19 include:

Fall:
- PS 437C: 20th Century and Contemporary Political Theory (Chapman)

Winter
- PS 330A: Origins of Political Thought (Ober)
- PS 333M Research and Methods in Political Theory (Reich); for students in year 2+; satisfies the PT requirement for students with Political Theory as a first, second or third field only.
- PS 337A: Political Philosophy: The Social Contract Tradition (Hills, Winter); satisfies the PT requirement for students with Political Theory as a first, second or third field only.

Spring:
- PS 432R: Modern Political Thought (McQueen)
- PS 438R: The Greeks and the Rational (Ober)
- PS 338 Universal Basic Income (Bidadanure); satisfies the PT requirement for students with Political Theory as a first, second or third field only.

Students who would like to take a class not listed above to fulfill the Political Theory requirement must receive the permission of the field convener prior to taking the class.
Political Theory Core Reading List (valid for students entering in Fall 2017 onward)

This is a deliberately limited list of works that are the subjects of, and/or the intellectual foundations of, large and substantial and active literatures in the field. Mastery of this list is meant as a step towards enabling students who are taking PT as a first field to understand the premises and the arguments engaged by various strands of the current PT literature, to evaluate that literature critically, and to contribute to it. These works are not specifically meant as models of how to write a PT paper.

Arendt, “What is Freedom?”; “What is Authority” (both in Between Past and Future; The Human Condition Part I (pp.1-21); Part II, chs. 4-8 (pp. 22-67) and Part V, chs. 24-29 (175-207)
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics (bks. 1-2, 5, 8-10), Politics (bks. 1-3, 7-8)
Bentham, Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation (chs. 1-5, 10, 12-14, 17)
Berlin, Two Concepts of Liberty (published as a pamphlet and in Four Essays on Liberty)
Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France
Cohen, On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice, and Other Essays... (chs. 1-2); Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality (Introduction, chs. 3-4, 10)
Dahl A Preface to Democratic Theory
Du Bois The Souls of Black Folk
Foucault, Discipline and Punish. Part I, chapter 1; Part III, chapters 1, 2, 3
Habermas, Between Facts and Norms Chs. 1, 7 & 8 (pp. 1-41; 287-387)
Hamilton, Madison, Jay, The Federalist (nos. 1-5, 8-10, 14, 34-5 37-40, 49, 51, 63, 78, 85)
Hart, The Concept of Law
Hegel, Philosophy of Right (Part 3: “The Ethical Life”)
Hobbes, Leviathan
Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, Political Writings (ed. Reiss)
Locke, “A Letter Concerning Toleration”; Second Treatise of Government
Machiavelli, Prince; Discourses on Livy (Dedicatory letter-I.18; I.25-34; I.37; I.55; I.57-9; preface to II-II.10; II.27-9; III.1-5; III.7-9.)
Marx, Communist Manifesto; German Ideology (Part 1); Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy; Critique of the Gotha Program
Mill, On Liberty; Utilitarianism; Representative Government (chs. 1-8, 18); Subjection Of Women.
Nagel, “The Problem of Global Justice” (Philosophy and Public Affairs 33, 113-137)
Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morals
Nozick, Anarchy, State and Utopia
Nussbaum, Frontiers of Justice, chs. 1 and 3
Okin, Justice, Gender, and the Family, Chs.1, 7, 8 (pp. 3-24, 134-186)
Pitkin The Concept Of Representation
Plato, Apology; Crito; Gorgias; Republic
Rawls, Theory of Justice; Political Liberalism; Law of Peoples (Parts I – IV).
Raz, The Morality of Freedom
Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality; Social Contract
Scanlon, “Preference and Urgency” (Journal of Philosophy 72, pp. 665-669)
Schmitt, Concept of the Political
Sen, “Capability and Well-Being” (The Quality of Life. 1993, pp. 30-53).
Strauss, “Persecution and the Art of Writing” (in Persecution and the Art of Writing); “The Three Waves of Modernity” (in Introduction to Political Philosophy)
Thucydides, The History of the Peloponnesian War (bks. 1-3, 5-7)
Walzer, Spheres of Justice
Williams, “Realism and Moralism in Political Theory” (in *In the Beginning Was the Deed*); *Shame and Necessity*, Chs. 1 (“Liberation of Antiquity”), 4 (“Shame and Autonomy”)
Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*: Chs. 1-4

The works on this list are profitably read in conjunction with these general surveys
Balot (ed.), *Companion to Greek and Roman Political Thought*
Estlund (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy*
Gaus and Kukathas (eds.) *Handbook of Political Theory*
Goodin, Pettit, and Pogge (eds.) *A Companion to Contemporary Political Theory*
Klosko (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy*
Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy* (2nd Edition)
Miller et al. (eds.) *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Political Thought*
Ryan, *On Politics*
Schofield and Rowe, *History of Greek and Roman Political Thought*
Wolin, *Politics and Vision*