Department of Political Science
Political Theory Field Statement

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The following requirements apply to students who enter the PhD program in 2016-17 and after.

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. 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. During their first and second years, students are expected to become conversant with the selections on the Political Theory Core Reading List (see page 3).

Pre-candidacy Requirements for 1st Field Political Theory Students

Students declaring Political Theory as a first field must satisfy the following requirements prior to being eligible to advance to candidacy:

1) Performance in Classes: Students declaring PT as first subfield will be evaluated on class performance and substantial papers written in (at least) four approved courses; ordinarily this will include at least one course in Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary theory. Students will have satisfied the requirements of PT as a second field after they have completed four PT courses with a grade of A- or above.

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, in addition, 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:

1) Complete four PT courses with a grade of A- or above; ordinarily this will include at least one course in Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary theory.
Students declaring PT as a second subfield will be evaluated on class performance and substantial papers written in (at least) four approved courses. Students with PT as a second subfield do not have to 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:

1) Complete two PhD level courses in Political Theory with grades of B or better. These classes must be taken for at least three units each. The courses are to be 3xx or 4xx courses offered by a member of the Political Theory field. These classes must be taken in addition to the one class all students must take to fulfill the Theory requirement.

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.

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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. Courses that fulfill this requirement in 2017-18 include:

Fall:
None

Winter
PS 330A: Origins of Political Thought (Ober)

Spring:
PS 331 High Stakes Politics (Weingast/Ober)
PS 437C 20th Century and Contemporary Political Theory (Chapman)

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.
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*
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* (Dedicatorary 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.*
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)
Petitkin *The Concept Of Representation*
Plato, *Apology; Crito; Gorgias; Republic*
Raz, *The Morality of Freedom*
Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality; Social Contract*
Schmitt, *Concept of the Political*
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*