

## SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

(Revised October 4, 2010)

### EXAM GUIDELINES

1. In consultation with the Chair of the examination committee, students must begin by selecting THREE topic areas in which they will be examined.
2. Students are responsible for all the reading materials listed under each of these three sections.
3. Students will have to answer two questions on the exam. The exam will be divided into two parts. Part A will pose three questions, drawn from the chosen areas. Part B will pose at least one question, drawn from a relevant graduate seminar that the student has taken. The student may choose two questions from Part A, OR one from Part A and one from Part B.
4. Each of the readings discusses a number of distinct philosophical themes. Students should be prepared to answer questions related to all of these central themes.
5. Where an excerpt is not specified, students should read the entire book.
6. The exam is closed book. Students may use a dictionary or translation dictionary. Please write legibly.

### READING LIST

(Choose three of the following topics)

#### **1. Social Contract Theory and Critiques**

Rousseau, *Social Contract* I, II, IV

Locke, *Second Treatise* II-IV, VIII, XVI-XIX

Hobbes, *Leviathan* X-XXI

Carole Pateman, *The Sexual Contract* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1988)

Charles W. Mills, *The Racial Contract* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999)

#### **2. Liberalism and Critiques**

Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*

Mill, *On Liberty* I-IV

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)

Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty." In *Liberty: Incorporating Four Essays on Liberty*.

Edited by Henry Hardy (Oxford University Press, 2002)

John Rawls, *Theory of Justice* (Harvard University Press, 2005), Part I

Nozick, *Anarchy, State, Utopia* (Basic Books, 1977) Chapters 3 & 7

Kymlicka, *Multiculturalism and Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights* (Oxford University Press, 1996)

Habermas, *The Inclusion of the Other* (MIT Press, 2000), II & V

#### **3. Marx and Marxism**

Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (1844)

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/preface.htm>

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology* (1845)

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/index.htm>

Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>

Antonio Gramsci, *The Prison Notebooks* in *The Antonio Gramsci Reader*. David Forgacs, ed. (New York: New York University Press, [1929-1935] 2000), (189-221)

Louis Althusser, *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses* (1970)

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/althusser/1970/ideology.htm>

Nielsen, "A Moral Case for Socialism"

#### **4. Theories of Power**

Macchiavelli, *The Prince*

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Volume I: Introduction/The Will to Knowledge*. Robert Hurley, trans. (New York: Vintage, [1978] 1990)

Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the College de France 1978-1979*

Arendt, *On Violence* (Mariner Books, 1970)

Catharine MacKinnon, *Toward a Feminist Theory of State* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1989), (Sexuality – 126-154)

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge, [1990] 1999)

#### **5. Identity and Oppression**

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*. H.M. Parshley, trans. (New York: Knopf/Vintage, [1949]1989), (Introduction – xix-xxxv; Myth and Reality – 253-263; and The Mother – 484-527)

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*. Charles Lamm Markmann, trans. (New York: Grove Press, [1952] 1967)

Marilyn Frye, "Oppression" in *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory* (Berkeley: The Crossing Press, 1983)

Sandra Bartky, *Femininity and Domination: Studies in the Phenomenology of Oppression* (New York: Routledge, 1990)

Iris Marion Young, "The Five Faces of Oppression" in *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1990)

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color" in *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1991, 1241-1299

Wendy Brown, *States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995)

#### **6. Justice**

Plato, *Republic* I, II, III, V, & VIII

Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Harvard University Press, 2001) I, II, & III

Nozick, "The Entitlement Theory of Justice" (in *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Chapter 7)

Mills, "Ideal Theory as Ideology." *Hypatia*. Vol. 20, No. 3, (Summer 2005), pp. 165-184

Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice* (Cambridge University Press, 1998 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Chapter 4  
Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2000), Part I, Chapter 2.

### **7. State Legitimacy and Freedom**

Aristotle, *Politics*. C.D.C. Reeve, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998) (Books I, II and IV)  
Immanuel Kant, *An Answer to the Question, What is Enlightenment?* (1784)  
<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/kant/enlightenment.htm>  
Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (Columbia University Press, 2005 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Part II, Lecture IV  
Cohen, “Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy” in *The Good Polity: Normative Analysis of the State*. Edited by Alan Hamlin and Phillip Petit (Blackwell Publishers, 1989)  
Wolff, *In Defense of Anarchism* (University of California Press, 1998)  
Simmons, “Philosophical Anarchism.” In *Justification and Legitimacy: Essays on Rights and Obligations* (Cambridge University Press, 2001)  
Goldman, “Anarchism: What it really stands for.” In *Anarchism and Other Essays* (Dover Publishers, 1969)  
Angela Y. Davis, “Unfinished Lecture on Liberation II” (1969) in *The Angela Y. Davis Reader*, edited by Joy James (Malden: Blackwell, 1998)

### **8. Violence and Institutions**

Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*. Joan Pinkham, trans. (New York: Monthly Review Press, [1955] 2000).  
Frantz Fanon, “Concerning Violence” in *The Wretched of the Earth*, Constance Farrington, trans. (New York: Grove Press, [1961] 1963)  
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, *Non-violent Resistance* (Mineola: Dover, 2001), (What Satyagraha Is – 3-36)  
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Alan Sheridan, trans. (New York: Vintage, [1975] 1995, second edition)  
Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (Penguin Classics, 2006)  
Thoreau, “A Plea for Captain John Brown”  
[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/thoreau\\_001.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/thoreau_001.asp)  
Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (Birmingham, April 16, 1963)  
Ward Churchill with Mike Ryan, *Pacifism as Pathology: Reflections on the Role of Armed Struggle in North America* (Oakland: AK Press, 2007, second edition)  
Giorgio Agamben, *State of Exception*. Kevin Attell, trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005)