

**Written Qualifying Examination in Political Theory
January 2015**

Instructions

All students should answer **one** question from Part I of this examination.

For the **minor**, students should also answer **one** question from **any other** part of this examination (Part II, III, or IV).

For the **major**, students should answer **two** additional questions, one each from **any two** additional parts of this examination (e.g. one question from Part II and one from Part IV).

You should incorporate into your answers discussion of the theories you deem most relevant to the question. Make sure, however, to answer the question directly as well as you are able; do not simply offer a literature review.

Part One Core

1. "A theory of justice must be a theory of just institutions." Discuss with reference to at least one ancient and one modern author.
2. Explain the role and function of equality in Hobbes' and Locke's political theory.
3. Marx believed that human rights are the rights of the egoistic bourgeois proprietor in modern civil society. Discuss, referring to the work of at least two contemporary authors who engage with this thesis.

PART II Justice

4. What is the proper scope of a theory of justice - the global community, the nation-state, or spheres within the nation-state?
5. Do liberal and/or democratic principles preclude the ascription or recognition of the jurisdiction of religious authorities over certain civil matters or of accommodations to religious self-governance that preclude regulation and oversight by the state?
6. Can utilitarianism be defined and defended as a theory of justice?

PART III Constitutionalism and Democracy

7. "Constitutions embody the tyranny of the dead over the living." Discuss.

8. What is a “minimal” conception of democracy and in contradistinction of what is it defined as minimal?

9. Is populism a democratic or anti-democratic phenomenon?

PART IV Citizenship Identity and Power

10. What, if anything, is wrong with a policy of maintaining multiple categories (and statuses) of citizenship?

11. Marx asserted, "The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas", Discuss.

12. Closed borders violate the universal principle of justice to persons. Discuss