

**Grad MA Exam
Political Theory - Minor
Spring 2008**

Directions:

1. Please put your NEW Student ID number at the top of each page of your examination. **DO NOT** write your name anywhere on the examination.
2. Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination.
3. Submit a cover page with your responses that lists the following: ID number, type of exam completed (e.g. MA major, MA minor) and examination area. Please list the semester the examination is taken as well.

Answer four of the following essay questions.

1. Summarize Marx's critique of ideology in the opening pages of The German Ideology. Then go into detail on his argument on historical materialism. Be sure to discuss the following issues: What do materialism and idealism have to do with ideology and how does human consciousness connect to material reality? What are his stages of social and economic development?
2. Summarize the first chapter of Marx's Capital, covering the following issues: What are use value and exchange value? What are the similarities and differences between them? What is socially necessary labor time? What is the relationship of these two value forms to the type of labor used to create them? Then take up the fetishism of commodities, looking at issues such as the following: (a) What in Marx's view is the special nature of human relationships under capitalism? What does he mean when he writes that human relations are thing-like? (b) What is being hidden or fetishized? (c) How are capitalist social relations between upper and lower classes different from that in pre-capitalist societies such as European feudalism? (d) How does "free and associated labor" come into all this?
3. Looking at the first essay in Nietzsche's Toward a Genealogy of Morals, explain the contrast he draws between "good and evil" on the one hand, and "good and bad" on the other. Relate these to his notions of the master morality and the slave morality, as well as that of "ressentiment." From what ethical/religious systems do these ideas emerge? What overall picture emerges of modern Western culture?
4. Discuss Max Weber's tripartite theory of authority or legitimate domination. How do they differ from force [Macht]? Go into detail on legal-rational (bureaucratic) domination and charismatic domination, based on his writings and contemporary applications of them.
5. Summarize Du Bois' arguments in Souls of Black Folk regarding the state of American race relations, taking up the following: (a) What does he mean by the "double consciousness" of Black Americans? (b) How does he think education, the right to vote, and work will affect the struggle for equality? (c) What does he mean when he says that the color line will be central to the twentieth century?

6. Summarize and discuss **two** of the following sets of writings by Foucault, which are listed in chronological order: (1) His analysis of the rise of the modern mental institution, including some of the historical stages leading to this. Also take up the modern asylum's relationship to the Enlightenment and to the modernist concept of reason, and the role of the medicalization of knowledge about mental illness. (2) His analysis of the rise of disciplinary power in the prison, the military, and the school. Be sure to look at issues such as his view that prison exemplifies the "microphysics of power," versus economic interpretations of the role and history of prison by Rusche and others. How do issues such as "docile bodies," the "gaze," medical and scientific knowledge, and normalizing judgment, come in to Foucault's discussion of the prison, the military, and the school? (3) His analysis of modern sexuality and sexual repression. What is the "repressive hypothesis" and why does he try to refute it? How do prohibitions on sex also serve to sexualize? How does medicalization of homosexuality relate to the concept of the "normal"? **[Important:** As you take up two of these, also mention some of his broad theoretical concepts such as the nature of disciplinary institutions, the circular nature of power, the relationship between power and knowledge. Also take up how he later (after #1) develops a critique of both the repressive hypothesis and of the concept of ideology, concepts Foucault himself had used in his critique of analysis of the mental institution.]

7. Discuss the impact of and response to Hegel in contemporary political theory, especially in France, focusing on Marcuse, Althusser, Foucault, Butler, and other relevant thinkers.