

Political Theory  
Spring 2011

**Directions:**

- Please put your Student ID number at the top of each page of your examination. **DO NOT** write your name anywhere on the examination.
- Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination.
- 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, as well as the semester in which you are taking the exam.
- Cite sources throughout your essay, where appropriate, using standard format and provide a single bibliography that includes all the materials used in preparing your answers.
- Clearly label each answer with the number of question you are answering.
- Budget your time carefully, including time to think and organize while preparing and writing the answers. Focus on preparing coherent, well-organized essays that not only demonstrate your mastery of the literature, but also indicate how the literature expands our collective knowledge.
- Students are expected to work independently on this examination and not discuss the essay items and responses with others. Any questions about exam procedures should be directed to the convener.

**MA Majors** – please answer 4 questions, at least one from each section. You are required to answer questions 3 and 5.

## **History of Political Thought**

1. Consider the classical anarchist canon of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries citing the major figures. In light of your review of the major figures, develop an analysis of the types of classical anarchist theory and a description of the parameters of classical anarchist theory.
2. Contrast pre-modern to modern modes of thought, using a major figure from each to highlight the two paradigms. Choose the two thinkers carefully so that they allow for a structured contrast on the dimension(s) that you choose to emphasize.

## **Contemporary Political Thought**

3. Write an essay that explains or disputes the proposition that anarchist theory can contribute to the understanding of contemporary political processes. Refer to theorists and political processes as you answer the question.
4. How does radical pedagogical theory relate to the progressive education of John Dewey? On what issues does radical pedagogy break with Dewey? Use two radical educational theorists in your response.

## **Epistemology**

5. Comment on the similarities and differences between the Marxist and Weberian approaches to describing and explaining (conceptualizing) political activity. Pay particular attention to the most general assumptions of each approach and assess their strengths and limitations in explaining (making sense of) political activity.