**2019 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. What are the promises and limits of the contemporary social and political movements to overcome "the weakness of the political system of democracy vis-a-vis the strength of economic system of liberalism"? Discuss.
2. To what extent are the conceptions of 'public sphere' by Habermas and Arendt contribute to/fall short of understanding the Gezi movement? Critically discuss.
3. What is (or would be) the significance of the Foucauldian conceptions of “micro-physics of power” and “governmentality" in contemporary understandings of political sociology? Discuss.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1. E-government practices result in shortening the distance between the citizen and the state. But it should be kept in mind that these also shorten the distance between the state and the citizen.

Write an essay in the framework of the above argument, social and political results and repercussions of e-government practices.

1. Write an essay in which you discuss the relationship, interaction and divergence of ‘public administration’ and ‘public policy’ as academic discipline areas.
2. Please evaluate the Presidential executive system in Turkey in terms of the constraints on government powers. Substantiate your argument(s) with examples.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. Justice and Development Party is often compared to Democrate Party of 1950's. Erdoğan himself also frequently mentions Menderes. Do you think the two parties are comparable in terms of ideology, electoral support, and style of leadership.? Discuss
2. Discuss the history of Turkish Islamism in terms of its position *vis-à-vis* the questions of modernity, (Kemalist) modernisation, and capitalism.
3. The political alignments of Republican Turkey have long been analyzed within the framework of the center-periphery cleavage. Please write an essay to discuss the changing cleavage structure of the Turkish party system from a historical perspective, and how this framework needs to be modified to account for the changing political alignments, shifting party positions and voting behavior in Turkey over the past decades.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. What are the different approaches to the global economic meltdown after 2007? How does each approach explain its causes and consequences? Relying on this literature, how would you define the crisis? Accordingly, is neoliberalism dead, wounded or fortified?
2. Periodization of phases and stages of capitalism ha s been an important concern of different political economy perspectives. Please write an essay discussing the relevant literature putting a special emphasis on the current stage of capitalist development.
3. Considering trade wars, Brexit, growing hyper-nationalist sentiments, and the question of migration, discuss whether an unwinding of globalization is underway.

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. What are the contributions of the language of rights to our experiences concerning politics and law in contemporary world? What are the disputable and defensible aspects of formal, abstract and universal rights? Answer by reference to three well-known thinkers and their works. Comment on the status of the politics of rights in our times especially in the face of criticisms directed towards it.
2. One could claim that the contemporary political theory is mostly concerned with the possible ways of understanding and realizing the possibility of the new political subject. For some, this new political subject is the outcome of neoliberal governmentality; while for others, the subject is to emerge out of its claim for radical (at times universal) equality. Discuss the contemporary debates on the political subject by reference to three out of the following: Michel Foucault, Jacques Ranciere, Alain Badiou, Jacques Derrida.
3. How did the 20th century thinkers reflect on and theorize about the “extra-ordinary politics” that is radical tranformations, new beginnings and/or revolutions which may have democratic or anti democratic attributes? Discuss with reference to Arendt, Schmitt and Frankfurt School.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. "Because cultural studies ignores the institutions of cultural production, it celebrates popular culture and gives up any oppositional role; and secondly, because cultural studies ignores economics, it is incapable of understanding the real structures of power, domination, and oppression in the contemporary world." Discuss.

2. "False consciousness alone. would be incapable of creating one of the most important characteristics of ideology, namely premature harmonization of social contradictions". Discuss.

3. Please write a critical essay about the argument that the audiences are to be seen as active participants and not passive viewers.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

1. The field of Comparative Politics was probably the most “exciting” subfield in Political Science in the 1960s. Since then, it has gone through ups and downs. Since the foundation of the Committee on Comparative Politics under the Social Science Research Council in 1954, how has the motivation of the comparativists evolved?
2. Please write an essay critically discussing different conceptualization of authoritarianism with reference to relevant country cases in the contemporary era.
3. It is commonly suggested by the media that Turkey has made a switch to the “presidential system” with the 17 April 2017 referendum. Do you agree with this? If yes, why? If no, why not? In answering the question, also make sure that you compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary systems.

**2018 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. Rawls declares that well-ordered society assumed by political liberalism, contrary to many past societies, should not refer to final ends and aims. In that sense under pluralistic conditions, well-ordered society should be neither like associations, nor like communities. Why is this so? Explain and discuss. How is the same problem discussed in Habermas’s proceduralist theory of law and democracy in “post-metaphysical age. Answer by reference to their works.
2. In the contemporary political theory there is a tendency towards a political ontology in which the conception of politics is not restricted with the given institutions (including the state), agents/subjects and issues. Badious's ontology of event, Ranciere's conception of "dissensus", and post-Marxist theory of politics can be considered in this sense.

Please choose two of them and discuss their promises in expanding our understanding of politics and their limits in attesting the significance of the prevalent institutions and agents in politics.

1. “Like Arendt, then Foucault maintains that power is something that is exercised and that it exists only in action”

Explore the above statement within the framework of various conceptions of the political. In this regard write an essay with reference to at least two of the following thinkers: Arendt, Foucault, Butler or Ranciere.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. What is meant by modernity of political thought? How is it possible to distinguish it from its predecessors? In what ways secularization of the world relates to the development of modern political thought? In your answer provide criteria to distinguish modern political thought by giving references to at least three modern thinkers.
2. What are the contributions of modern thinkers to the language and politics of rights (or to the modern conviction that all of us are born with rights). Why are those rights are supposed to be formal, abstract and universalistic? Answer by reference to three well-known modern thinkers and their works. Comment on the status of the politics of rights in our times especially in the face of criticisms directed towards it.
3. Quentin Skinner has remarked that Hobbes’s understanding of liberty as being left alone has triumphed in the mainstream of the Western tradition since his time. Skinner thinks this involves the rejection of an older (and perhaps better) ideal of liberty that defined liberty by reference to the lack of dependence on others. How does your reading of any of the two following thinkers assess Skinner’s claim? Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel and J. S. Mill.

**CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. What are the characteristics of teleological (purposeful) view of nature and human practices in ancient Greek political theory? What are the foundations of teleological view? What are the implications extensions of such view of nature for ethical and political life? Answer by reference to Plato and Aristotle’s works.
2. Explain and discuss the modification of the original Natural Law teaching by Cicero on the basis of his attempt to establish the constutional power within the legal body of the Roman Empire.
3. “Greek political theory was so centered on the polis, a unique political form, that in the end it proves surprisingly unhelpful for thinking about politics elsewhere.” Discuss.

**URBAN POLITICS**

1. Please discuss potential implications of administrative decentralization for local politics under austerity conditions. In particular, what sort of challenges, do you think, an urban policy environment populated by different types of policy implementers (political, market-based, public, third sector) might bring for the politics revolving around local governments under such conditions?

As you elaborate your answer, please benefit from the quotes below.

“To recap briefly, marketizing public services fragmented the institutional structure delivering those services. Because service users and their problems do not fit neatly into institutional boxes, organizations have to co-operate to deliver their services effectively. Such sets of organizations, or networks .... work by co-operating with one another. ... Trust is their central co-ordinating mechanism”.

“Government policy now fragmented service delivery. It compensated for its loss of hands-on control by reinforcing its control over resources. Decentralizing service delivery was coupled with both centralized financial control and a massive extension of regulation... The government adopted a strategy of ‘more control over less’.”

2. Please compare and contrast main perspectives on urban politics in terms of their conception of the relationship between “urban economy” and “urban politics”. As you elaborate your answer, please refer to how these perspectives establish their views with reference to different theories of the state.

3. Please discuss role of “urban rent” in shaping urban and national politics in Turkey during the post-1980 period. As you elaborate your answer, please provide a historical sub-periodisation of that period.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an essay that analyses the switch of Turkey to a “presidential executive”. In answering the question, make sure that you describe the main characteristics of presidential systems by giving actual examples and then discuss the issue from the perspective of Turkey, especially taking into account the model accepted in the referendum of 16 April 2017 and the 24 June 2018 presidential elections.
2. Increasing number of contemporary scholars refer to an autoritarian drift in political rule across different polities. Which one(s) of the below mentioned concepts, developed by different theoretical perspectives, do you think better reflect this development in state-society relations? Explain WHY with reference to a country of your own choice, by referring to explanatory merits of each concept and substantiating your arguments in relation to the theories underpinning these concepts.

* Authoritarian Statism
* Authoritarian Populism
* Competitive Authoritarianism
* Fascism
* Neopatromanialism

1. One can identify two methodological poles in the comparative politics literature. On the one hand, different versions of methodological nationalists tend to take the formation of national institutions as if they exist and evolve in isolation. The exact opposite approaches aim to understand and explain particular institutional settings in terms of the

overall logic of the development of the world history. Please discuss the theoretical underpinnings of these two poles and alternative aproaches that aim to transcent them. Notions such as -but not limited to- exceptionalism, uniqueness, elite-bargaining, path dependence, varieties, varigatedness, form analysis would be of relevance in your response.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1. “The basic concern of the founders of the public administration discipline was that the size and joint expertise of bureaucracies threatened the relationship of subservience of public administration to politics. Therefore, Wilson and Weber developed design principles for strengthening the obedience of governmental bureaucracies to their political masters (the people).”

Do you agree with this argument? Why? Justify your position by referring to founders’ views.

1. “…. the word “client” is derived from the Latin cliens, which means “dependent” or “follower.” In many cases, public agencies operating under the Old Public Administration dealt with their clients in just such a manner. Clients were seen as in need of help, and those in government made honest efforts to provide the help that was needed through the administration of public programs”

Write an essay in which you discuss the possibility (probability) of a ‘new’ public service as an alternative to the one as described in the above quotation which is located in ‘neo-liberal’ social formation where public management is the mainstream paradigm.

1. Please evaluate the main tenets and characteristics of the public administration within the recently operational Presidential executive system in Turkey. Substantiate your argument(s) with examples.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. One might argue that there are basically two approaches to mass media, one

privileges production process and the other consumption. Explain the basic claims

and representatives of these approaches; and discuss if they are necessarily

mutually exclusive understandings.

1. “The whole world is made to pass through the filter of the culture industry

... Real life is becoming indistinguishable from the movies”.

Discuss the above statement with special emphasis on its political implications.

1. Compare and contrast the main conceptions of ideology.

**PUBLIC POLICY**

1. Liberal democratic values and regimes in Europe are under threat from rising far right populist movements/parties, anti-immigrant sentiments, and resistance to multiculturalism. Do you think the state of the European social policy is in anyway implicated in this? Discuss WHY/HOW or WHY NOT in relation to the theories on the development and viability of social policy at the European Union.
2. Please discuss the notion of “Status Quo” as a public policy issue. In particular, in what ways, do you think, institutional design of the policy-making process and the policy implementation environment (available implementers and instruments of different types) might contribute to or be informed by “Status Quo”.
3. One of the essential methodological ‘tools’ to shred light both on the contents of public policy as well as on the interactions of public and private actors in different policy areas enabling us to understand the results of state acting concerning its impact on civil society and the political-administrative system can be subsumed under the term ‘Multidimensional Policy Analysis’.

Please explain and discuss this ‘tool’ on the base of a concrete case.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. Discuss the implications of the 2008 crisis on the global political and economic reproduction of capitalism.
2. Considering trade wars, Brexit, growing hyper-nationalist sentiments, and the question of migration, discuss whether an unwinding of globalization underway.
3. Discuss different methodological appoaches that conceptualize the relationship of the economic and the political.

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. In recent years, in theories of democracy it is often observed that the problem of representation is balanced by the presence of participatory public spaces. Discuss with reference to relevant theories.
2. In the study of contemporary social movements there is the attempt to bring capitalism back into analysis in addition to the generic approaches in the field. Discuss if this is necessary with reference to certain cases.
3. In what ways emergence of new social movements opened a new era and contributed to our perception of political action. Discuss and evaluate with reference to theories on power, agency or social movements.Provide examples from NSMs.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. Please write an essay discussing the forces and the dynamics influencing the processes of constitution-making and constitutional reforms in Republican Turkey during and after democratic transitions and evaluating their impact on political institutionalization. In your essay, please reflect particularly on the constitutional reform processes of political liberalization after 1983 until the AKP period, as well as the most recent debates on constitution-making since 2007 against a background of the history of previous constitutionals developments impacting on Turkish democracy until the 1980s.
2. Please discuss the relevance of the concept of fascism to modern Turkish politics, focusing on the political discourses and/or movements and/or regime in a particular historical context.
3. What are the determinants of voting behaviour in Turkey? Does it change in between the elections?  Discuss by giving examples from different periods.

**2018 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**PUBLIC POLICY**

1-) What sort of challenges, do you think, a policy field populated by different types of policy implementers (political, market-based, public, third sector) might bring for the policy-maker? As you elaborate your answer, please benefit from the quote below.

“To recap briefly, marketizing public services fragmented the institutional structure delivering those services. Because service users and their problems do not fit neatly into institutional boxes, organizations have to co-operate to deliver their services effectively. Such sets of organizations, or networks .... work by co-operating with one another. ... Trust is their central co-ordinating mechanism”.

2-) Please discuss the factors that determine the feasibility of a public policy. As you elaborate your answer you are advised to benefit from the following concepts and the quote below: “rationality”, “agenda setting”, “policy instruments”, “interest groups”.

“Modern governments face a paradox in that, in the abstract, their bureaucratic capacity for action in terms of knowledge, expertise, budgets and personnel resources is high, while, at the same time, phenomena such as globalization and democratization have severely undermined their ability to directly control social outcomes.”

3-) Mainstream approaches (i.e. liberal, neoliberal and social democratic) view **social policy** merely as a **“distributive or redistributive”** **public policy.**

1. Do you agree or disagree with this view? Why/Why not?
2. Discuss and support your view with reference to main patterns of transformation observed since the 2000s in one social policy area (labour market policies, social aid, soical security etc.) and a country of your own choice.

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1) In what ways do different theorizations of politics inform different

theorizations of democracy or vice versa? Discuss with reference to two

theories.

2) What is the impact of Foucauldian theory upon the field of political

sociology? Discuss.

3. Explain and discuss what is meant by post-modern turn. what does it have to do with political sociology ? In your answer elaborate on various theories or cases of study.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1-) In what ways, do you think, the “reform prescriptions of the New Public Management approach” might contradict the principles of “Classical Public Administration”?

2-) Departing from the following insights by Woodrow Wilson, and considering the political orientation of the Governance Approach, is it possible to argue that this approach (Governance) could develop a scientific perspective of administration?

“The idea of the state and the consequent ideal of its duty are undergoing noteworthy change; and ‘the idea of the state is the conscience of administration.’ Seeing every day new things which the state ought to do, the next thing is to see clearly how it ought to do them. This is why there should be a science of administration which shall seek to strengthen the paths of government, to make its business less unbusiness-like, to strengthen and purify its organization, and to crown its dutifullness.”

3-) What might be the key criteria to employ in studying public administration from a comparative perspective, following the statement given below? Please discuss.

“The ‘principle’ of efficiency should be considered a definition rather than a principle: it is a definition of what is meant by ‘good’ or ‘correct’ administrative behavior. It does not tell *how* accomplishments are to be maximized, but merely states that this maximization is the aim of administrative activity, and that administrative theory must disclose under what conditions the maximization takes place ”

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1-) In the 1990s, Esping Anderson in his work titled “Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism” presented a typology on the variety of redistributive approaches that existed across the developed world. Since then, the spread of neoliberalism and growing prominence financialisation transformed the politics of distribution.

Write an essay that discusses how neoliberalism cum financialisation affected the main dimensions and patterns of social provision identified in Esping Anderson’s typology. You should refer to policy areas and countries in your response.

2-) Write an essay which analyses the history of and trends in comparative politics, focusing basically on the methodological shortcomings of the field.

3-) Write an essay on the applicability of the presidential system in Turkey. In answering the question, you are also expected to provide clear examples from other presidential countries as well as the basic characteristics of this system.

**URBAN POLITICS**

1-) Please discuss the impacts of the institutional design of local governments and the specifities of the national political system on the prospects of “local participation and democracy”. As you develop your analysis, please critically evaluate the pro-decentralisation arguments of the Third Way perspective.

2-) To what extent, and under what conditions, is it possible to argue that concentrating on key political figures/names (their intentions, projects, character, etc) would suffice to make sense of urban politics? As you elaborate your answer, you are advised to benefit from the following keywords: “neoliberal urbanisation”, “structure vs agency”, “different approaches to local governance”.

3-) The urban-rural dichotomy constituted a key departure point in classical works aiming to explain the urban phenomenon. However at a later stage, various works started to suggest that this dichotomy fell short of providing us with a satisfactory account of contemporary dynamics urbanisation and the emergent urban society. Keeping these points in mind, please write an essay on the changing relationship between “the rural” and “the urban” in Turkey during the post-1980 period.

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1-) Is there a thread connecting the political theories of Arendt and Habermas

in terms of how they define politics and its normative ground or condition? If so, what possible criticisms can you suggest in assessing the limits of this theoretical line? Discuss.

2-) Gramsci's political theory can be defined as "philosophy of praxis" while Arendt developed hers on the basis of an ontology of action. Compare and contrast these two political theories which are seemingly action-based.

3-) What are the alternative conceptions of the “political” in contemporary political thought? Discuss and evaluate with refernce to at least two opposing trends approaches or schools of thought contending as to what “political” is about.

**2017 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. What are the contributions of modern political thinkers to the idea (and language) of formal, abstract and universal rights. Answer by reference to three well-known thinkers and their relevant works.Comment on the status of the politics of rights in our times in the face of criticisms directed towards it.
2. Write an essay on the development of secularism in political theory by reference to at least two modern thinkers.
3. Can we find a theoretical reflection on the questions of freedom and justice in Hobbes’s Leviathan ? If there is, how are they articulated in the broader political philosophy of Hobbes? What is the position of Locke with respect to these questions?

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an essay that analyses the recent referendum on constitutional changes in Turkey, which has basically been discussed as the “presidential system”. Is this accurate? Does this new model fit into presidential model? If yes why, if no why not? In answering the question, make sure that you describe the main characteristics of presidential systems by giving actual examples and then discuss the issue from the perspective of Turkey.
2. Could the concepts such as 'authoritarian populism’ and/or 'authoritarian statism' be useful in examining the neoliberal state? Discuss by giving examples from countries with different political regimes.
3. In your view, what could be the most plausible way of analysing state-society relations in the Third World social formations? Discuss by taking account different theoretical approaches which you think are relevant.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. Discuss the changing trajectories of the relationship between the secular state elites and the Islamic actors/forces in Turkey and evaluate its consequences for democratization. In this context how, in your opinion, the encounter of the Gülenist Islamic forces with the secular actors should be studied with respect to the post-1980 period?
2. Please write an essay on the politics of constitution-making in Turkey by focusing on the previous experiences of constitutional transformations in the Republican Turkey. Please integrate also your reflections on the recent process of the constitutional amendment which introduced the ‘cumhurbaşkanlığı sistemi’.
3. Please write an essay that compares and contrasts the ways in which “Kemalism” has been appropriated, articulated or signified by the left-wing political discourses (including social democracy and socialism) since the 1960s.

**2017 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1.Discuss personality  versus policy cleavage in determining electoral outcomes in Turkey.

2.Discuss the role of the military in Turkish politics.

3.Please write an essay that traces and discusses the uses of “democracy” in the history of Turkish Islamism, including Islamist political thought as well as political practice.

**URBAN POLITICS**

1)Metropolitan cities in Turkey have become arenas of so-called large scale projects in the last decade. Discuss the issue with reference to the specifity and autonomy of urban vis a vis the national and global scales and forces.

2)Are there political limits to sustainability of “commodification of urban space”? As you develop your answer please discuss the political forms, means and implications of this “commodification” process.

3) Please discuss the challenges to the urban policy process (policy-making in particular) in Turkey, where the dynamics of urbanization increasingly gain a provincial and regional face today.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. “Public opinion does not exist.”

Discuss the above statement with reference to the approaches in media and cultural theory.

1. (How) does ideology succeed in interpellating individuals as subjects?
2. Discuss the explanatory power of the concept of “culture industry” in the context of mass-mediated culture and new media in present-day Turkey.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1. “Perhaps the greatest roadblock to development of a discipline of public administration is the lack of comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding administration regardless of its cultural, social and political setting.”

Explain and critically discuss the above quotation

1. “Moving toward a new (comparative) paradigm for public administration necessitates endorsing a new view of comparative public administration, which assumes: (1) comparative public administration in the 21st century is equivalent to more general public administration; public administration is no longer U.S. specific, because (2) the more general public administration seeks higher explanatory power for the whole field and its branch areas. The U.S. specific public administration is but a special case of the more general theory. Thus, (3) comparative public administration is not the field for small group with a foreign background of interest; it is an inherent part of the discipline”

Write an essay, in the context of the above quotation, on the possibility of a new paradigm of ‘comparative public administration’. In your answer both explain and critically discuss the above quotation and compare the old comparative administration (CAG) movement between 1950-1970 and the proposed ‘new’ comparative public administration paradigm.

1. It is usually claimed that the classical theory of public administration (which included thinkers/theoreticians like Wilson, Weber, Taylor, Fayol and the others) had been very sensitive and rigorous to exclude the idea and practice of ‘politics’ from public administration.

In the light of the above mentioned claim, write an essay in which you;

1. Discuss whether the above claim is justified or not (by trying to use solid evidence)
2. Comment on whether politics/administration dichotomy as such is justified or not justified in your opinion. (justify your opinion)

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. To what extent is the public sphere reorganized in contemporary late capitalist societies? Discuss in relation with various theories of “public sphere”.
2. Discuss, with reference to at least two theories or theoreticians from classical and contemporary political sociology, how different conceptions of power define the field (of political sociology) differently.
3. The study of social movements in the field of political sociology depends on a distinction between "old" and "new". Yet, the last wave of movements, starting with the case of Iceland in 2009 and including Gezi in 2013, exhibit characteristics which are different from both. In what ways do they differ from "old" and "new" social movements? Compare and contrast.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an essay that analyses the switch of Turkey to a “presidential executive”. In answering the question, make sure that you describe the main characteristics of presidential systems by giving actual examples and then discuss the issue from the perspective of Turkey, especially taking into account the model accepted in the referendum of 16 April 2017.
2. Discuss the emergence of comparative politics and comparative government as subdisiplines of political science.

What are the methodological underpinnings of the discussions regarding how this discipline would help up understand different political systems and regimes.

1. *“The difference (with the Ottoman case) only stands out when we remember that in the Western context ‘liberties’, ‘orders’ and ‘estates’ were all legally enforceable structures.  The whole point of the Western concept of ‘oriental despotism’ was that there existed no ‘oriental’ equivalent of the legal force of contract in the West.”*

Do you agree with the main idea in the quotation? If so, why? If not, explain your reasons also refering to possible strategies to go beyond this particular approach to comparing East and West.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. What is the role of the concept of sovereignty in the making of the modern political thought? Discuss by reference to the works of T. Hobbes, I. Kant and G. W. F. Hegel.
2. How would you analyze the relationship between the property ownership and political freedom in the works of J. Locke and J. S. Mill? What are the main difference between the two thinkers and what do those differences (if there is any) tell us about the progress of the modern liberal thought?
3. What are the main tenets or theoretical standpoints of political liberalism? Compare and contrast with reference to at least three thinkers who tackle with such issues.

**PUBLIC POLICY**

1. What are the potential challenges to coherence and stability of a policy environment/field functioning through a truly “multi-level” governance framework? As you elaborate your answer you are advised to benefit from the following concepts: “policy network”; “policy capacity”; “types of policy instruments”.
2. Can the rise of right wing populism and nationalism in Europe be related to the crisis of the “European Social Project”? Discuss why or why not with reference to social policy in the EU, and/or its impact on its member states.
3. What sort of challenges, do you think, might the judicialization tendency in public policy (in capitalist democracies) bring for the implementation stage in the policy process? Please discuss.
4. **POLITICAL ECONOMY**
5. 1) Please discuss different political economy approaches that aim to explain the crises in capitalism. How does each approach define the notion of crisis?
6. 2) Reflect upon the recent trend towards authoritarianism worldwide within the context of neoliberal transformations.  
     
   3) Discuss whether capitalism has now become a 'financialised capitalism'.

**2016 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1-)How did the twentieth century political thinkers deal with the questions raised by authoritarianism tyranny and political violence? Write an essay on the concepts, theories and ideas that are developed to understand, interpret and/or criticize such ‘failure’ of modernity.

2-) What is procedural democracy? What is radical democracy? How does each differ from liberal democracy? What are the similaritres and diffences between producedual democracy and radical democracy?Answer by reference to the works of Rawls, Habermas and Mouffe.

3-) How does Arendt attempt to reestablish the political?

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1)Write an essay that compares and contrasts the disciplines of “comparative politics” and “comparative government” by looking at the historical backgrounds, methodological issues and scopes of study for these two areas. Also make sure that you focus on the relations and/or overlapping topics between the two.

2)Could the concepts such as 'authoritarian populism’ and/or 'authoritarian statism' be useful in examining the neoliberal state? Discuss by giving examples from countries with different political regimes.

3)Write an essay that analyses the potential switch of Turkey to a presidential executive. In answering the question, make sure that you describe the main characteristics of presidential systems by giving actual examples and then discuss the issue from the perspective of Turkey.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. What are the implications of new media for political practice?
2. Discuss the major strengths and weaknesses of the argument for “culture industry.”
3. Discuss the contribution of Gramsci’s conception of hegemony to the study of ideology.

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1-What would be the possibilities of radical politics that may arise from the encounter of non-essentialist subjectivities in the free (or reclaimed) public spaces? Discuss.

2- Discuss contemporary social movements with reference to changing conceptions of class and life style politics.

3-How is the conception of civil society changing from “classical” to “new political sociology”? What does this tell us about the shifting meanings of “the social” and “the political”? Discuss.

**TURKİSH POLITICS**

1. Please discuss if and how political power in contemporay Turkey can be analysed as class power.
2. President Erdoğan claims that the roots of the AKP lie in the Democrat Party of the 1950s. Do you agree with this claim? In which areas of political life can this be traced? Discuss.
3. Is there a strong or a weak state in Turkey? Discuss by giving examples from the Republican history.

**2016 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**POLİTİCAL ECONOMY**

1. It has been argued that since circa 1980, while the economic system remains capitalist, a different form of capitalism in which finance has become more dominant than hitherto, has emerged.

Do you agree, if so why, if not, why not?

1. “The essential role of the state in capitalism is not to serve as an instrument of appropriation, or a form of ‘politically constituted property’, but rather as a means of creating and sustaining the conditions of accumulation at arms-length, maintaining the social, legal and administrative order necessary to accumulation.”

“A key challenge is to transform the state from a soft state to an effective, market-augmenting “competition state” in the economic realm whilst softening the “hard state” in the political realm through a process of democratic reform.”

Please write an essay comparing and contrasting these statements about the role of the state in a capitalist market economy.

1. Turkish capitalism has been found deviating from the norms of ‘modern capitalism’ and/or neoliberalism over the last decade.

Do you agree, if so why, if not, why not?

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. Write an essay in which you discuss the last presidential election in the USA from the perspective of "classical elitism" and "democratic elitism".
2. It is often claimed that New Social Movements ushered in a new era and-or new politics which paved all the way for new theories. Do you agree? Why or why not. Write and essay by emphasizing the novelty and the significance of NSM.
3. Political sociology has been increasingly taking the form of cultural sociology according to the contemporary interpretations in the field. Why is this so? Can you assess the relevance of this “cultural turn” with reference to contemporary political dynamics (including politics of citizenship and identity) and/or social struggles.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. On July 15, 2016, Turkey experienced a failed coup d’état attempt staged by the followers of F. Gülen. Write an essay discussing the implications of a political Islamist coup -organized against a government controlled by a rightwing and arguably Islamist party- for the study of Turkish politics. In particular, focus on implications for the centre-periphery model and the military tutelage argument.
2. Please discuss the ideological origins and underpinnings of the notion of the “nation” as held by the Justice and Development Party.
3. Please write an essay to discuss the ideological, institutional and structural factors underlying the challenges faced by social-democratic left in Turkey in party politics. In your essay, please contextualize the Turkish case by providing a historical and comparative perspective to enable us to identify the recent predicaments of social democracy as well.

**PUBLİC ADMİNİSTRATİON**

1. Write an essay by which you explain, compare and contrast ‘Public Management’ theory and practice with ‘New Public Management’ theory and practice. Especially make an emphasis on the need and reasons for the emergence of the latter.
2. Write an essay on different meanings attached to the concept of ‘governance’ in public administration theory and practice. Use illustrations for your arguments from both the theory (theorists arguments) and the practice (concrete cases for governance in modern bureaucratic life). Especially make an emphasis on the relevance and validity of these different meanings attached to or associated with the concept.
3. Write an essay on the concept of ‘public interest’ in public administration theory and practice. In your essay especially make an emphasis on how this concept is associated and integrated with the concept of ‘social equity’ by different past and present approaches and/or schools of thought in public administration. Try to use illustrations for your arguments from the practice of public administration and/or public bureaucracy.

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. If contemporary political thought could be characterized as a critique of liberalism and/ or critique of modernity, what are the basic approaches that endorse such a critique? Explain and discuss with reference to at least three thinkers or schools of thought.
2. Rawls declares that well-ordered society assumed by political liberalism, contrary to many past societies, should not refer to final ends and aims, and it should be neither like associations, nor like communities. Why is this so? Explain and discuss. How is the same problem discussed in Habermas’s proceduralist theory of law and democracy in post-metaphysical age. Answer by reference to their works.
3. Explain and discuss Gramsci’s civil society conceptualization and contrast it with liberal approaches to civil society.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1-)Write an essay that analyses the potential switch of Turkey to a presidential executive. In answering the question, make sure that you describe the main characteristics of presidential systems by giving actual examples and then discuss the issue from the perspective of Turkey.

2-)How can we account for increasing authoritarianism in different regions of the world in the contemporary era? Please write an essay by taking into consideration conceptual frameworks that you consider relevant for the analysis of particular historical national contexts.

3-)Please discuss the theoretical and conceptual frameworks that would enable the students of comparative politics to understand different forms of interest representation in relation to particular economic development models.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. Write a critical essay elaborating the contributions of modern contract theories to political thought and practices in terms of our conceptions of freedom, the language of rights and legitimacy of political authority. Also comment on the probable impasses and ideological obstructions created by contract theories. Answer by reference to the works of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.
2. In modern political thought, the role of political agency becomes crucial as it is seen as the bearer of change and progress. However in defining who the agent is, modern thought is divided into two rival streams. While one identifies the self as subject (or person or individual) to be the privileged site of agency, the other associates this position with the state, the community or the class. Choose four thinkers (two from each view) and discuss specifically the role of property in establishing the modern political agency.
3. In newer interpretations, Rousseau is often called a “petit bourgeois socialist”, Why? Explain and discuss.

**PUBLIC POLİCY**

**1.** Is it possible to argue that administrative reforms inspired by the governance perspective will necessarily lead to a more rational policy implementation environment? Please develop your answer with reference to the autonomy of bureaucrats.

**2.** What might be the implications of a fiscal crisis (and a subsequent need to adopt a strict fiscal policy) for “policy mobilization” and “agenda-setting” stages of the public policy process.

**3.**What sort of challenges could a radical shift in the institutional design of policy-making (from a parliamentarian one to a presidential one, for instance) bring for the implementation stage of the policy process. As you develop your answer, you might want to benefit from the notions of “policy networks”, “policy coordination”, and “types of implementers”.

**PUBLİC ADMİNİSTRATION**

1-Write an essay by which you explain, compare and contrast ‘Public Management’ theory and practice with ‘New Public Management’ theory and practice. Especially make an emphasis on the need and reasons for the emergence of the latter.

2-Write an essay on different meanings attached to the concept of ‘governance’ in public administration theory and practice. Use illustrations for your arguments from both the theory (theorists arguments) and the practice (concrete cases for governance in modern bureaucratic life). Especially make an emphasis on the relevance and validity of these different meanings attached to or associated with the concept.

3-Write an essay on the concept of ‘public interest’ in public administration theory and practice. In your essay especially make an emphasis on how this concept is associated and integrated with the concept of ‘social equity’ by different past and present approaches and/or schools of thought in public administration. Try to use illustrations for your arguments from the practice of public administration and/or public bureaucracy.

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. What would be the possibilities of radical politics that may arise from the encounter of non-essentialist subjectivities in the free (or reclaimed) public spaces? Discuss.
2. Discuss contemporary social movements with reference to changing conceptions of class and life style politics.
3. How is the conception of civil society changing from “classical” to “new political sociology”? What does this tell us about the shifting meanings of “the social” and “the political”? Discuss.

**TURKİSH POLİTİCS**

1.Please discuss if and how political power in contemporay Turkey can be analysed as class power.

2.President Erdoğan claims that the roots of the AKP lie in the Democrat Party of the 1950s. Do you agree with this claim? In which areas of political life can this be traced? Discuss.

3.Is there a strong or a weak state in Turkey? Discuss by giving examples from the Republican history.

**2015 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. It has been contended that

i) ‘The praetorian nature of the republic in Turkey is inherent in its foundation”.

ii) “[t]he Turkish state remains by and large as dirigiste as ever. The terms ‘liberal’ and ‘market-oriented’ are quite misleading when used in connection with the Turkish reforms of the 1980s.”

Do you agree?

1. Reflect critically on the role of technocratic (economic management and/or governments) in the neoliberal state transformation.
2. Write an essay problematizing the political implications of the global economic meltdown after 2007 with reference to the future of neoliberalism in general, capital-labour relations, and state transformation in particular.

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1.According to Gramsci, all human beings are - to a certain extent - intellectuals, not only specially talented persons in art, culture and politics. What does he mean? What makes them “intellectual” and what roles do they have in state, society and politics?

2.What concepts did early 20th century thinkers like Arendt and Schmitt develop to understand or to deal with political phenomena such as democratic election of governments through universal suffrage and the rise of totalitarianism? Write an essay by depicting their concepts and comparing their relevance.

3.What are the contributions of Rawlsian Political Liberalism and Habermas’s Procedural Democracy to our understanding of justice and legitimacy in so-called pluralistic societies? Compare their theories. Comment on the limits within which Rawls and Habermas imagine social and political change.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1 - Can we find a theoretical reflection on the questions of freedom and justice in Hobbes’s Leviathan? If there is, how are they articulated? Compare Locke’s position with respect freedom and justice to that of Hobbes.

2 – What are the historical and intellectual backround of the Enlightenment ideals of emancipation, progress and unity of reason? Answer by reference to the figures of Kant. Hegd and Marx. Comment on the current attacks directed towards these ideals

3- For liberals Rousseau is an authoritarian thinker whereas for republicans he is the first genuine thinker of freedom. How can this be possible? Answer by reference to Rousseau’s texts and comment on the relevance of Rousseau to the debate between contemporary liberalism and republicanism.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1- Discuss the determinants and the contextual factors behind the debate on the problems of  parliamentarism /parliamentary system in Turkey  from a historical perspective.  In your answer please elaborate on the changing dynamics in the functioning of the parliamentary system’s  in Turkey since 1924 (including the constitutional reform processes ), and analyze the  diverging approaches of  major political actors to the issue also by taking the recent debates .into consideration.

2- Please discuss the ideological origins and underpinnings of the notion of the “state” or “political power” as held by the Justice and Development Party in Turkey.

3- Death of Kenan Evren recently has triggered questions regarding the military-civil relations in Turkey. Discuss the political role of Turkish army not only the coups where they directly intervened but also during the civilian rule.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. Discuss the ways in which ideology is inscribed on the production process of mass-mediated representations/texts/products.
2. Discuss the implications of new media for political practice.
3. How does “demand uncertainty” structure the culture industry? Discuss.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an essay on “semi-presidential systems.” In answering the question, you are expected to 1) give the basic characteristics of these systems, 2) refer to actual examples from some representative countries, and 3) discuss Turkey’s shift to a semi-presidential system after October 21, 2007 referendum in terms of the potential advantages/disadvantages this shift may bring.
2. To what extent do you think the discipline of comparative government is essential in understanding political systems and/or regimes? In answering the question, please make sure that you differentiate comparative government from comparative politics, by focusing on the main characteristics and areas of study of each field.
3. Could the concept of 'Authoritarian statism' be useful in examining the neoliberal state? Discuss by giving examples from countries with different political regimes.

**2015 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**POLİTİCAL ECONOMY**

1) Please write an essay problematizing the historical reasons for the turn towards institutionalism in global political economy since the mid-1990s.

2) Please write an essay critically reflecting upon different perspectives that define the current state of the Turkish state such as “authoritarian statism”, “fascism”, “Neoliberal Sultanate”, and/or “constitutional dictatorship” by taking into account the characteristics of the Turkish political economy in the current period.

3) Discuss whether the financial crises since the 1990s have implied a change in the neoliberal discourse/agenda by taking into account the developments in the Eurozone countries.

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

There has been a new wave of social movements from Tunisia and Egypt to Spain (*Indignados*) and Turkey (*Gezi*) through the last five years or so. These movements erupted unexpectedly in the form of insurgencies, mobilised people who had hitherto remained politically inactive and defied established institutions and organizations. Choose *two* of the following three questions to discuss certain aspects of these movements while questioning the generic theories in the field concerned.

1. Discuss the relevance and limits of the distinction between “old” and “new” social movements in political sociology to understand and explain these contemporary experiences. Do we need to go beyond these theories? Why?
2. These movements express a dissatisfaction with the current models of democracy and/or demand democratisation. Discuss their criticism and aspiration of democracy with reference to, at least, two theories on public sphere/space.
3. Do these contemporary movements represent the dynamics of social change today? What are their limitations for changing or transforming social structures? Are there conservative “elements” or “tendencies” within those movements? Are they vulnerable to conservative reactions or backlash? Discuss.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. Please write an essay that compares and contrasts the ways in which “Kemalism” has been appropriated, articulated or signified by the left-wing political discourses (including social democracy and socialism) since the 1960s.
2. Justice and Development Party has been in Power for over 13 years in Turkey. Discuss this party in terms of its voting support and power base, ideology, implementation of economic policies as well as democratic procedures. If you think the period is not monolithic, then analyse the different stages of AKP rule as well as different factions within the party.
3. Please explain the foundations, determinants and the changing dynamics of the political and institutional autonomy of the Turkish military from a historical perspective. Then, discuss the significance and the implications of the civilianization reforms passed during the EU accession process and the post-2007 initiatives of the government which challenged the long-standing impunity of the TSK for the democratization of the military-civilian relations (and of the Turkish political system in general) by contextualizing these processes.

**PUBLİC ADMİNİSTRATİON**

1. Write an essay in which you explain and discuss the effects of recent developments in organizational theory and practice upon a better and efficient ‘public service’.
2. It has been claimed that contemporary approaches/theories of public administration are comonly oriented towards ‘de-bureaucratization’.

Write an essay in which you explain, evaluate and criticize this claim.

1. It has been claimed that contemporary approaches and practices of public administration approach and treat public servants (officials) with their economic needs thus takes the attention away from their ‘non-economic’ needs. Thus;

“Professionalization, often creates distance between public employees and their clients and between employees themselves.”

Write an essay in which you explain, evaluate and criticize this argument.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. What is “new” in the new media?
2. (How) does ideology succeed in interpellating individuals as subjects?
3. Write an essay on the role of the media in the formation of “public sphere” and/or “hegemony” in Turkey in the context of a particular set of media representations (for instance, a particular television program or news coverage about a specific issue).

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1- While the concept of ‘recognition’ (problem of identity-based injustice) has been a popular part of the recent discussions in political theory, another concept, ‘redistribution’ (the problem of economic injustice) seems to lose its earlier dominance within the same field. What is your assessment of the debates on recognition vs. redistribution? Do you agree that the concepts of recognition and redistribution stand as antithesis to each other? If yes, discuss your reasons. If not, discuss how this ‘false antithesis’ could be overcome.

2- Claude Lefort had argued that democratic society is constituted as the society in which Power, Law and Knowledge are exposed to radical indetermination. What does it mean? Explain. What are the reflections and responses concerning this statement in the political theories of Arendt, Mouffe and Ranciere? Discuss in a comparative perspective.

3- Write an essay on how and why those who see politics as a disruptive /subversive practice or as a contestation of values could be contributing to an understanding of politics as active citizenship, civic engagement and collective deliberation. In your answer discuss and evaluate at least three thinkers who intentionally or unintentionally contributes to such and understanding of democratic politics.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Do you think that the discipline of Comparative Government is essential in understanding political system and/or regimes? In answering the question, please make sure that you refer to different political contexts and/or different time periods in a comparative way.
2. Write an essay that analyses the potential switch of Turkey to a presidential executive. In answering the question, make sure that you describe the main characteristics of presidential systems by giving actual examples and then discuss the issue from the perspective of Turkey.
3. What are the alternative ways of engaging comparative study? Compare and contrast at least two approaches to comparative analysis by providing reasons and examples as to how you prefer one to the other.

**2015 Mayıs Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. It has been contended that

i) ‘The praetorian nature of the republic in Turkey is inherent in its foundation”.

ii) “[t]he Turkish state remains by and large as dirigiste as ever. The terms ‘liberal’ and ‘market-oriented’ are quite misleading when used in connection with the Turkish reforms of the 1980s.”

Do you agree?

1. Reflect critically on the role of technocratic (economic management and/or governments) in the neoliberal state transformation.
2. Write an essay problematizing the political implications of the global economic meltdown after 2007 with reference to the future of neoliberalism in general, capital-labour relations, and state transformation in particular.

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1.According to Gramsci, all human beings are - to a certain extent - intellectuals, not only specially talented persons in art, culture and politics. What does he mean? What makes them “intellectual” and what roles do they have in state, society and politics?

2.What concepts did early 20th century thinkers like Arendt and Schmitt develop to understand or to deal with political phenomena such as democratic election of governments through universal suffrage and the rise of totalitarianism? Write an essay by depicting their concepts and comparing their relevance.

3.What are the contributions of Rawlsian Political Liberalism and Habermas’s Procedural Democracy to our understanding of justice and legitimacy in so-called pluralistic societies? Compare their theories. Comment on the limits within which Rawls and Habermas imagine social and political change.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1 - Can we find a theoretical reflection on the questions of freedom and justice in Hobbes’s Leviathan? If there is, how are they articulated? Compare Locke’s position with respect freedom and justice to that of Hobbes.

2 – What are the historical and intellectual backround of the Enlightenment ideals of emancipation, progress and unity of reason? Answer by reference to the figures of Kant. Hegd and Marx. Comment on the current attacks directed towards these ideals

3- For liberals Rousseau is an authoritarian thinker whereas for republicans he is the first genuine thinker of freedom. How can this be possible? Answer by reference to Rousseau’s texts and comment on the relevance of Rousseau to the debate between contemporary liberalism and republicanism.

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1- Discuss the determinants and the contextual factors behind the debate on the problems of  parliamentarism /parliamentary system in Turkey  from a historical perspective.  In your answer please elaborate on the changing dynamics in the functioning of the parliamentary system’s  in Turkey since 1924 (including the constitutional reform processes ), and analyze the  diverging approaches of  major political actors to the issue also by taking the recent debates .into consideration.

2- Please discuss the ideological origins and underpinnings of the notion of the “state” or “political power” as held by the Justice and Development Party in Turkey.

3- Death of Kenan Evren recently has triggered questions regarding the military-civil relations in Turkey. Discuss the political role of Turkish army not only the coups where they directly intervened but also during the civilian rule.

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. Discuss the ways in which ideology is inscribed on the production process of mass-mediated representations/texts/products.
2. Discuss the implications of new media for political practice.
3. How does “demand uncertainty” structure the culture industry? Discuss.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an essay on “semi-presidential systems.” In answering the question, you are expected to 1) give the basic characteristics of these systems, 2) refer to actual examples from some representative countries, and 3) discuss Turkey’s shift to a semi-presidential system after October 21, 2007 referendum in terms of the potential advantages/disadvantages this shift may bring.
2. To what extent do you think the discipline of comparative government is essential in understanding political systems and/or regimes? In answering the question, please make sure that you differentiate comparative government from comparative politics, by focusing on the main characteristics and areas of study of each field.
3. Could the concept of 'Authoritarian statism' be useful in examining the neoliberal state? Discuss by giving examples from countries with different political regimes.

**2014 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. There has recently been an increase in scholarly studies that strive to analyze the AKP using various Marxist/Marxian categories such as hegemony, passive revolution, Islamic bourgeoisie, and neoliberal authoritarianism. Write an essay discussing the merits and limitations of this emerging literature and the concepts it employs. What do these concepts explain about the AKP that the alternative theories cannot?  Are there any issues that need further conceptualization?
2. Discuss the evolution of the idea of democracy as held by the Turkish right-wing tradition from the Democrat party to the Justice and Development Party.
3. What are the major institutional, politico-ideological and structural bases of the dominant party system periods in Turkish politics? Discuss by comparing and contrasting the periods of dominant party politics in Turkey to date.

**URBAN POLITICS**

1. “Is local necessarily democratic?”: How would different schools of urban politics answer this question? Please elaborate your discussion alluding to the shifting boundaries between local politics and national politics under the influence of globalization processes.
2. In what ways, do you think, the current municipal practice in metropolitan cities of Turkey might shape and/or alter the socio-cultural fabric of poor neighbourhoods? And, in that regard, how would you evaluate the thesis that “the society is getting increasingly conservative in Turkey?”
3. Please discuss the role and place of “urban rent” in shaping the face/dynamics of urban politics under neoliberalism. As you elaborate your answer, please refer to the local government reforms and the pattern of urbanization during the post-1980 period in Turkey.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an analytical essay on “semi-presidential systems.” In answering the question, you are expected to a) give the basic characteristics of these systems by also comparing and contrasting them with the presidential and parliamentary systems and b) refer to actual examples from some representative countries.
2. In your view, what could be the most plausible way of analysing state-society relations in the Third World social formations ? Discuss by taking account different theoretical approaches which you think are relevant.
3. It is often argued that the state in Turkey has been undergoing a sea change in recent years. How would you characterize and analyze the state form and/or political regime in present-day Turkey within a comparative framework?

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. Discuss, with reference to H.Arendt and J.Habermas, the relevancy of the distinction between public sphere and private sphere for a " democratic co-existence" of people in the presence of different worldviews/values/cultures/religions.
2. Assess the impact of post-structuralism upon the field of political sociology. In your discussion, address the changing meanings of the concepts of "political", "social" and "power".
3. 'Evaluate Gezi Resistance with respect to the interplay of notions of ‘the social’ and ‘the political’ from the perspective of the Social Movement Theories'

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. To what extent do new media (including social networks) differ from

"traditional" mass media in terms of their ideological functions.

1. What is "critical" in critical theory?

1. Discuss the factors (economic, political, cultural etc.) that shape

the production process in Turkish media.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1. Write an essay on the issue of ‘equality vs. equity’ (principle for public bureaucracies) and its reflections on the theory of public administration. (Who defends which? What are their arguments and how they construct their own ways of legitimization of their positions?)
2. Very popular approximately 30-35 years ago, do you think the expression of ‘identity crisis in public administration’ (practice and theory) is still relevant today? Explain and discuss why with references to relevant literature.
3. Write an essay in which you explain and discuss the possibility and probable repercussions of adapting ‘newer’ forms of organizing (post-buraucratic?) mostly emanating from private sector (i.e. issues such as flexibility, holography, tele-work, adhocracy etc.) to public bureaucracies.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. “Though Rousseau writes about the General Will in terms of liberty, it is essentially an authoritaritative statement.”

Explain and discuss this claim of the British historian Paul Johnson by reference to the distinction between negative and positive liberty and by reference to liberal and republican traditions of modern political thought.

1. Post-enlightenment thought is characterized by problems emanating from “the death of God”. That is problems about the gradual unavailability of authoritative foundations for truth, justice and action became constitutive for modern politics. How does Kant, Marx, Nietzsche and/or Weber deal with these problems? Please write an essay exploring their answers to the above mentioned problem of modernity.
2. What are the conditons and aims of political society in the political theories of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke? Compare them and reflect on the differences that stem from their views on human nature.

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. In their work, ‘Dialectics of Enlightenment’ Adorno and Horkheimer describe the transformation of the (positive) emancipation of the individual from nature into a totalitarian domination of the individual over nature.Can we argue that this dialectical model is still valid to analyze the power structures and power relations of present times?
2. What does it mean to be modern and political or to be at the threshold of new forms of social and political relations and conceptualizations? Please write an essay comparing the responses of the following contemporary thinkers: Arendt, Schmitt, Ranciere (or Foucault).
3. What is procedural democracy? What is radical democracy? How and to what extent do they differ from liberal democracy? What are the similarities and differences between procedural democracy and radical democracy? Discuss by reference to Rawls, Habermas and Mouffe.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. Reflect critically upon the historical reasons that changed the international neoliberal agenda towards what has been called as the post-Washington consensus in the mid-1990s by paying attention to the developments in finance, state transformation, and distribution of wealth.
2. Is "international/global political economy" in social sciences a method, discipline, or a sub-discipline?
3. Does it make sense to talk of “crisis in …” and “crisis of …” neoliberalism and/or capitalism? If so why, if not why not?

Discuss with a special reference to Turkey in regards to 2001 crisis and/or the implications of 2008 global financial crisis for the Turkish economy.

**2013 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**Contemporary Political Thought**

1. "Explain and discuss the limits of the state in Hayek. By doing this take into regard his elaboration on cultural and anthropological issues. "

2. Claude Lefort had argued that democratic society is constituted as the one in which Power, Law and Knowledge are exposed to a radical indetermination. What does he mean? What are the reflections and responses concerning this statement in the political theories of Arendt, Mouffe and Habermas.

3. What is the meaning of the Rawlsian statement, “Priority of the rights over the conceptions of good life”? Explain and discuss by reference to growing importance of language of rights in contemporary political practices. Comment on the criticisms directed towards this statement from the angles of communitarianism and radical democracy.

**Political Economy**

1. “An adequate theory of the state, must come to grips with the close interrelationship between economics and politics. … This invalidates a basic assumption of modern social science, whose dominant paradigm separates political and economic actors into distinct, well-defined spheres.”

Please write an essay discussing the above statement by taking into account different traditions of political economy as well as considering whether that justifies a relativist understanding or not.

2.“Financialisation is a key defining moment of neoliberalism.” Discuss.

3.Does it make sense to talk of “crisis in …” and “crisis of …” neoliberalism and/or capitalism? If so, if not

**Studies in Mass Communication Ideology & Culture**

1. “Anyone who still believes that you can organize a political demonstration without paying attention to television risks being left behind. It is more and more the case that you have to produce demonstrations for television so that they interest television types and fit their perceptual categories.”

Discuss the implications of the above-mentioned process for political representation and practice.

1. How would you problematize (or rethink) the relationship between the media and democracy, given the current state of market-oriented media systems?
2. Explain and discuss the main modes of reception/decoding of the products of mass-mediated culture with reference to major theorists as well as to particular case studies.

**Comparative Politics & Government**

1.Populism appears to be one of the most puzzling concepts in comparative politics. Please write an essay critically discussing different approaches to the concept. In the light of these approaches, how does the AKP government compare to the examples of Maoism, Nazism, Peronism, Nasserism or Özalism?

2.“Although shaped by the condition of *uneven and combined development*, it is also the *balance of class forces* within state spaces that alters the developmental trajectory and spatial form of *statehood* through emergent *passive revolutionary class strategies* defining the rise of a state in capitalist society.”

Write an essay critically discussing the relevance of the above for comparative political analysis with special reference to the concepts in *italics*.

3.Write an essay that describes presidential, parliamentary and semi-presidential systems by giving actual examples from the representative cases of these executive types. Then discuss these options in terms of their applicability in Turkey: in your opinion, which type is better for Turkey? Why?

**2014 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

**TURKISH POLITICS**

1. There has recently been an increase in scholarly studies that strive to analyze the AKP using various Marxist/Marxian categories such as hegemony, passive revolution, Islamic bourgeoisie, and neoliberal authoritarianism. Write an essay discussing the merits and limitations of this emerging literature and the concepts it employs. What do these concepts explain about the AKP that the alternative theories cannot?  Are there any issues that need further conceptualization?
2. Discuss the evolution of the idea of democracy as held by the Turkish right-wing tradition from the Democrat party to the Justice and Development Party.
3. What are the major institutional, politico-ideological and structural bases of the dominant party system periods in Turkish politics? Discuss by comparing and contrasting the periods of dominant party politics in Turkey to date.

**URBAN POLITICS**

1. “Is local necessarily democratic?”: How would different schools of urban politics answer this question? Please elaborate your discussion alluding to the shifting boundaries between local politics and national politics under the influence of globalization processes.
2. In what ways, do you think, the current municipal practice in metropolitan cities of Turkey might shape and/or alter the socio-cultural fabric of poor neighbourhoods? And, in that regard, how would you evaluate the thesis that “the society is getting increasingly conservative in Turkey?”
3. Please discuss the role and place of “urban rent” in shaping the face/dynamics of urban politics under neoliberalism. As you elaborate your answer, please refer to the local government reforms and the pattern of urbanization during the post-1980 period in Turkey.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1. Write an analytical essay on “semi-presidential systems.” In answering the question, you are expected to a) give the basic characteristics of these systems by also comparing and contrasting them with the presidential and parliamentary systems and b) refer to actual examples from some representative countries.
2. In your view, what could be the most plausible way of analysing state-society relations in the Third World social formations ? Discuss by taking account different theoretical approaches which you think are relevant.
3. It is often argued that the state in Turkey has been undergoing a sea change in recent years. How would you characterize and analyze the state form and/or political regime in present-day Turkey within a comparative framework?

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1. Discuss, with reference to H.Arendt and J.Habermas, the relevancy of the distinction between public sphere and private sphere for a " democratic co-existence" of people in the presence of different worldviews/values/cultures/religions.
2. Assess the impact of post-structuralism upon the field of political sociology. In your discussion, address the changing meanings of the concepts of "political", "social" and "power".
3. 'Evaluate Gezi Resistance with respect to the interplay of notions of ‘the social’ and ‘the political’ from the perspective of the Social Movement Theories'

**STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1. To what extent do new media (including social networks) differ from

"traditional" mass media in terms of their ideological functions.

1. What is "critical" in critical theory?

1. Discuss the factors (economic, political, cultural etc.) that shape

the production process in Turkish media.

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1. Write an essay on the issue of ‘equality vs. equity’ (principle for public bureaucracies) and its reflections on the theory of public administration. (Who defends which? What are their arguments and how they construct their own ways of legitimization of their positions?)
2. Very popular approximately 30-35 years ago, do you think the expression of ‘identity crisis in public administration’ (practice and theory) is still relevant today? Explain and discuss why with references to relevant literature.
3. Write an essay in which you explain and discuss the possibility and probable repercussions of adapting ‘newer’ forms of organizing (post-buraucratic?) mostly emanating from private sector (i.e. issues such as flexibility, holography, tele-work, adhocracy etc.) to public bureaucracies.

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. “Though Rousseau writes about the General Will in terms of liberty, it is essentially an authoritaritative statement.”

Explain and discuss this claim of the British historian Paul Johnson by reference to the distinction between negative and positive liberty and by reference to liberal and republican traditions of modern political thought.

1. Post-enlightenment thought is characterized by problems emanating from “the death of God”. That is problems about the gradual unavailability of authoritative foundations for truth, justice and action became constitutive for modern politics. How does Kant, Marx, Nietzsche and/or Weber deal with these problems? Please write an essay exploring their answers to the above mentioned problem of modernity.
2. What are the conditons and aims of political society in the political theories of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke? Compare them and reflect on the differences that stem from their views on human nature.

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. In their work, ‘Dialectics of Enlightenment’ Adorno and Horkheimer describe the transformation of the (positive) emancipation of the individual from nature into a totalitarian domination of the individual over nature.Can we argue that this dialectical model is still valid to analyze the power structures and power relations of present times?
2. What does it mean to be modern and political or to be at the threshold of new forms of social and political relations and conceptualizations? Please write an essay comparing the responses of the following contemporary thinkers: Arendt, Schmitt, Ranciere (or Foucault).
3. What is procedural democracy? What is radical democracy? How and to what extent do they differ from liberal democracy? What are the similarities and differences between procedural democracy and radical democracy? Discuss by reference to Rawls, Habermas and Mouffe.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. Reflect critically upon the historical reasons that changed the international neoliberal agenda towards what has been called as the post-Washington consensus in the mid-1990s by paying attention to the developments in finance, state transformation, and distribution of wealth.
2. Is "international/global political economy" in social sciences a method, discipline, or a sub-discipline?
3. Does it make sense to talk of “crisis in …” and “crisis of …” neoliberalism and/or capitalism? If so why, if not why not?

Discuss with a special reference to Turkey in regards to 2001 crisis and/or the implications of 2008 global financial crisis for the Turkish economy.