

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
2010-2011 Spring Term

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Contemporary Political Thought

May 12, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1. Explain and discuss common grounds and differences between Gramsci's concept of civil society and current approaches within the framework of debates concerning democratization in Turkey.
2. Compare and contrast the basic premises and propositions of classical liberalism, utilitarian liberalism and Rawlsian egalitarian liberalism concerning the rights, the conceptions of justice, and the position of political authority. Comment on the themes of continuity and points of rupture with respect to these issues in the evolution of liberalism.
3. Write an essay on Foucault's contribution to our apprehension of the phenomenon called power and the rise of governmentality. Why does he argue that there is excessive value attributed to the problem of state? What do you think? Discuss.

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
2010-2011 Spring Term

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

TURKISH POLITICS for Sinem Topçuođlu

May 9, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1. Write an essay on the relationship between party system institutionalization and democratic consolidation in Turkey by discussing the transformations that took place in the party system in the post-1980 era .
2. "The Center right politics is over in Turkey" Discuss
3. Discuss Turkish left since 1960. Pay special attention to differences in perceptions of local and international, role of democracy and capitalism.

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
2010-2011 Spring Term
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

16 May 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three questions

1. Write an essay on semi-presidentialism, first, by briefly defining the characteristics of such systems; then by comparing and contrasting them with presidential and parliamentary systems. In your opinion, which type of executive system best explains the case of Turkey today, especially after the October 2007 referendum? In answering the question, you are also expected to give examples from other countries in order to support your ideas.

2. "Power has precise bases in economic exploitation, the place of different classes in the various power apparatuses and mechanisms outside the state, and the state system itself."

"[L]eft hand of the state [is] the set of agents of the so-called spending ministries which are the trace, within the state, of the social struggles of the past"

"The dialectics of class and law made the juridical sphere a genuine forum within which certain kinds of class conflict were fought out not merely an instrument of the rulers"

Discuss the concept of counter hegemony with reference to the quotations above.

3. Could the concept of 'Authoritarian statism' be useful in examining the neoliberal state? Discuss by giving examples from countries with different political regimes.

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
2010-2011 Spring Term

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Political Economy

May 12, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1) "The welfare state... embodies the successes of the social democratic political project for the gradual transformation of capitalism."

"Third Way'... seems indistinguishable from an activist liberalism which perceives social justice through intervention in the distribution, not of market outcomes, but of the capacities for successful market participation."

Do you agree with the above statements ? If so why? If not, why not?

2) It has been contended that there are various forms of neoliberalism and that they continue to be influential on a world scale, despite various crisis tendencies.

Discuss with a special reference to 2001 crisis in Turkey and/or 2008 global financial crisis.

3) Compare and contrast changing dynamics in international political economy in the West with reference to state-market relations, international monetary and financial regulations, and the question of international/global hegemony. You can specify yourself the periods that you will be focussing upon.

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
2010-2011 Spring Term

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Political Sociology for Yasemin Koç

May 9, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1. Write an essay in which you discuss the theoretical implications of the understanding of “post-modern turn” for political sociology.
2. "How is the notion of 'class' significant in New Social Movement Theories? Discuss within the framework of central sociological debates of the late 1980s and 1990s"
3. To the extent that different approaches to “power” and the “political”, reflected in elitist and pluralist models, have constituted the subject matter of political sociology for a long time, explain the main positions and evolutions of these perspectives over time vis-à-vis one another. In your analysis refer to specific thinkers’ works and also try to assess how “... the study of politics is affected by cycles of political power .” in this context.

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
2010-2011 Spring Term

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Political Sociology for Yasemin Koç

May 9, 2011

Please answer *two* of the following three questions:

1. Write an essay in which you discuss the theoretical implications of the understanding of “post-modern turn” for political sociology.
2. "How is the notion of 'class' significant in New Social Movement Theories? Discuss within the framework of central sociological debates of the late 1980s and 1990s"
3. To the extent that different approaches to “power” and the “political”, reflected in elitist and pluralist models, have constituted the subject matter of political sociology for a long time, explain the main positions and evolutions of these perspectives over time vis-à-vis one another. In your analysis refer to specific thinkers' works and also try to assess how “... the study of politics is affected by cycles of political power .” in this context.