

## **General Exam in Political Theory (major field: day two)**

**Fall 2009**

Please respond at length to one of the questions in part three, and more briefly to the question in part four. Part three is intended to test depth and breadth of knowledge in a particular field of political theory; part four is intended to test more detailed knowledge of particular texts. There is not a specific expectation for length (as long as you answer the questions adequately), but we expect that the response to part three will be roughly twice as long as the response to part four. Be sure to take time to think through your answers, plan what you will write, and read over what you have written. Quality is more important than quantity. Good luck!

### **PART THREE: Democratic Theory**

- (1) Why is democracy justified, or, put differently, what are democracies good for? Do they mainly embody or express some intrinsic good? If so, which one(s)? Are they mainly justified as instrumental to some other goals or goods? If so, which one(s)? If you cite more than one, is there some priority among them? Are they internally related, or do they just add up independently? In your answer be sure to discuss at least three thinkers, at least two of whom disagree on the answer to the questions above, and outline your own view.
  
- (2) What is the role(s) of conflict in democratic theory? Is conflict something to be overcome, managed, minimized, or embraced? How and why? In your answer be sure to discuss at least three thinkers, at least two of whom disagree on the answer to the questions above, and outline your own view.

### **PART FOUR: Liberalism and Its Critics**

Does Philip Pettit's theory of republican government offer a critique of liberalism, as Pettit himself claims, or is it best thought of instead as an elaboration of liberal ideals?