



Department of Political Science
Ph.D. Reading List
Political Theory

This reading list is divided into **two** principal sections—the *Canon* and *Contemporary and Democratic Theory*. Exams will include questions drawn from both sections. The first day of the exam will cover the canon and the second will cover contemporary and democratic theory.

Canon

You are responsible for **all** works in the Canon Core. In addition, be prepared to discuss recent commentary on at least **two** works in the Canon Core. Finally, you are responsible for at least two items (i.e., texts, not authors) in **each** of the historical categories within the Canon Supplemental section. Submit a final list of the **six** supplemental items you have prepared, along with a brief thematic rationale for your choices, by the time you apply to take your exam. You should begin choosing items from the supplemental list in consultation with the members of the Theory Field Committee at least several months in advance of taking the exam. Field Committee members can help you choose items based on your research interests and/or on substantive topics.

Read the entire text unless selections are specified.

Canon Core:

Aristotle. *Politics* (Books I i-viii; xii-xiii; II i-v; III [entire]; IV [entire]; V i-ix; VI, i-vii).

Burke. *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (in the Penguin edition, pp. 84-155, 169-173, 188-195, 266-285, 371-377).

The Federalist, numbers 1, 9, 10, 15, 39, 45, 47-8, 51, 56-7, 62-3, 68, 70, 78, 84.

Hobbes. *Leviathan* (Parts One and Two; Review and Conclusion).

Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*.

Machiavelli. *Discourses on Livy* (Book I, Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 9, 16, 58; Book II, Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, 29; Book III, Ch. 1, 9, 43, 49), *The Prince*.

Marx. *1844 Economic-Philosophic Manuscripts* (estranged labor and private property and communism sections), *On the Jewish Question*, Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, *The Communist Manifesto*, *Capital* (excerpts from Vol. I and Vol. III [pp. 294-361 and pp. 431-42 in the *Marx-Engels Reader*]).

Mill. *Considerations on Representative Government* (Chs. 1-3, 5, 7-12, 16-17), *On Liberty*, *Utilitarianism*.

Nietzsche. *On the Genealogy of Morals*.

Plato. *Apology*, *Crito*, *Republic* (Stephanus number 327a to 376c; 412b to 434b; 441c to 444e; 471c to 521c).

Rousseau. *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, *On the Social Contract*.

Canon Supplemental:

Ancient:

Aeschylus. *The Oresteia*.
Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics* (Books I and II [entire], III i-v, V i-vi, VIII i-vi)
The Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Judges, I Kings, Gospels of Matthew or Luke.
Cicero. *On the Republic*.
Epictetus. *Encheiridion*.
Homer. *The Iliad*.
Marcus Aurelius. *Meditations*.
Plato. *Gorgias, Laws, Protagoras*.
Sophocles. *Antigone, Oedipus Rex*.
Thucydides. *The History of the Peloponnesian War*.
Vergil. *The Aeneid*.

Medieval and Early Modern:

The Political Ideas of Thomas Aquinas (Hafner; excerpts from *The Summa Theologica*, I-II) or St.
Thomas Aquinas on Politics and Ethics (Norton; *The Treatise on Law*, Qu. 90-97).
Augustine. *City of God* (Preface and Book XIX).
Bacon. *Selected Writings* (Modern Library).
Bodin. *Six Books on the Commonwealth*.
Luther. *On Secular Authority, On Christian Freedom*.
Marsilius of Padua. *Defender of Peace*.
Christine de Pisan. *City of Women*.
Wootton (ed). *Divine Right and Democracy* (an anthology of political writings from 17th c. England).

18th -20th centuries:

Anti-Federalists. Primary sources or good secondary source such as Herbert J. Storing, *What the Anti-Federalists Were For* (Chicago).
Bentham. Selections from Parekh (ed). *Bentham's Political Thought*.
Constant. Selections from *Political Writings* (Cambridge).
Emerson. "Nature," "Self-Reliance."
Freud. *Civilization and its Discontents*.
Hegel. *Philosophy of Right, Philosophy of History*.
Hume. *Essays* ("Of the Original Contract"; "Of the Origin of Government").
Kant. *Perpetual Peace, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*.
Kropotkin. *Mutual Aid*.
Montesquieu. *The Spirit of the Laws* (Books 1-19).
Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil, The Birth of Tragedy from the Spirit of Music*.
Paine. *Common Sense*.
Proudhon. *What is Property? An Enquiry into the Principle of Right and of Government*.
Thoreau. *Civil Disobedience*.
Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*.
Wollstonecraft. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.

Contemporary and Democratic Theory

You are responsible for **all** works in the Contemporary and Democratic Theory Core. You are responsible for at least **six** works from the two supplemental categories with a minimum of **two** works from the democratic theory supplemental list and **two** works from the contemporary theory supplemental list. Submit a final list of the supplemental items you have prepared, along with a brief thematic rationale for your choices, by the time you apply to take your exam. You should begin choosing items from the supplemental lists in consultation with the members of the Theory Field Committee at least several months in advance of taking the exam. Field Committee members can help you choose items based on your research interests and/or on substantive topics (e.g., liberal, participatory, deliberative, agonistic/radical, or feminist democratic theory; liberalism; critiques of liberalism; justice; post-structuralism; feminism; political economy and Marxian theory; philosophy of science.).

Read the entire text unless selections are specified.

Contemporary and Democratic Theory Core:

- Arendt, Hanna. *The Human Condition* (Prologue; Sections I, II and V).
Berlin, Isaiah. *Four Essays on Liberty* ("Two Concepts of Liberty").
Dahl, Robert. *Democracy and Its Critics*.
Downs, Anthony. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*.
Foucault, Michel. "What is Enlightenment"; *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* ("Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"); *Power/Knowledge* ("Two Lectures" and "Truth and Power").
Habermas, Jürgen. *Between Facts and Norms* (Translator's Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 7 and 8), *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action* ("Discourse Ethics").
Pateman, Carole. *Participation and Democratic Theory*.
Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice* (Ch. I, sections 1-4; Ch. II, sections 11-17; Ch. III [entire]; Ch. IV, sections 33-35; 39-40; Ch. VII, sections 66-67; Ch. VIII, section 77; Ch. IX, sections 78-79, 82, 85-86), *Political Liberalism* (Lectures I, IV, VI, IX).
Schumpeter, Joseph. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (Part IV, "Socialism and Democracy").
Weber, Max. *Economy and Society, Vol. I* (Ch. III, The Types of Legitimate Domination, 212- 255); *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; "Politics as a Vocation."

Democratic Theory Supplemental:

- Benhabib, Seyla (ed). *Democracy and Difference*.
Dahl, Robert. *Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy, Preface to Democratic Theory*.
Dewey, John. *The Public and its Problems*.
Guilhot, Nicolas. *The Democracy Makers*.
Gutmann, Amy and Dennis Thompson. *Democracy and Disagreement*.
Held, David. *Models of Democracy*.
Hempel, Carl. "The Function of General Laws in History," *The Journal of Philosophy* 39:2 (1942), 35-48.
Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Citizenship*.
Lefort, Claude. *Democracy and Political Theory* ("The Question of Democracy").
Macpherson, C.B. *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy*.
Manin, Bernard. *The Principles of Representative Government*.
Mansbridge, Jane. *Beyond Adversary Democracy*.
Mouffe, Chantal. *The Return of the Political, The Democratic Paradox*.

Oakeshott, Michael. *Rationalism and Politics and Other Essays* ("Rationalism and Politics," "The Masses in Representative Democracy," and "The Political Economy of Freedom").

Pitkin, Hanna. *The Concept of Representation*.

Popper, Karl. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations" in E. D. Klemke (ed), *Introductory Readings in the Philosophy of Science*.

Sandel, Michael. *Democracy's Discontent*.

Schattschneider, E.E. *The Semi-Sovereign People*.

Smith, Anna Marie. *Laclau and Mouffe: The Radical Democratic Imaginary*.

Taylor, Charles. *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. II ("Interpretation and the Sciences of Man").

Contemporary Theory Supplemental:

Arendt, Hannah. *On Violence, Between Past and Future, On Revolution*.

Avineri, Shlomo. *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*.

Brown, Wendy. *States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity*.

Butler, Judith. *Excitable Speech, Bodies That Matter, Gender Trouble*.

Cohen, G.A. *Karl Marx's Theory of History*.

Connolly, William. *Identity/Difference: Democratic Negotiations of Political Paradox*, expanded ed. (Minnesota, 2002); *Why I Am Not a Secularist*.

Elshtain, Jean. *Public Man, Private Woman*.

Elster, Jon (ed). *Rational Choice*.

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality, Vol. I* (entire); *Discipline and Punish* ("The Body of the Condemned," "Docile Bodies," "Panopticism"), *The Order of Things* (Foreword and Preface).

Fraser, Nancy. *Justice Interruptus*.

Gilligan, Carol. *In a Different Voice*.

Gould, Carol (ed). *Gender: Key Concepts in Critical Theory*.

Gramsci, Antonio. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* ("The Intellectuals," "The Modern Prince," "State and Civil Society," "The Study of Philosophy," "Some Problems in the Study of the Philosophy of Praxis").

Hayek, Friedrich. *The Road to Serfdom*.

Honig, Bonnie. *Political Theory and the Politics of Displacement*.

King, M.L. "Letter from Birmingham City Jail."

Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*.

MacIntyre, Alasdair. *After Virtue*.

Macpherson, C.B. *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*.

Martin, Michael. "Taylor on Interpretation and the Sciences of Man," in Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds), *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*.

Nicholson, Linda (ed). *Feminism/Postmodernism*.

Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy, State and Utopia*.

Okin, Susan. *Women in Western Political Thought, Justice, Gender, and the Family*.

Oren, Ido. *Our Enemies and US: America's Rivalries and the Making of Political Science*.

Pateman, Carole. *The Sexual Contract*.

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*.

Resnick, Stephen and Richard Wolff. *Knowledge and Class: A Marxian Critique of Political Economy*.

Ross, Dorothy. *The Origins of American Social Science, Introduction and Portions on Political Science*.

Sandel, Michael. *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*.

Schmitt, Karl. "The Concept of the Political."

Strauss, Leo. *Natural Right and History*.

Sunstein, Cass (ed). *Feminism & Political Theory*.

Taylor, Charles. *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. II ("Atomism"); *Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition* ("The Politics of Recognition").

Walzer, Michael. *Spheres of Justice*.

Young, Iris. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*.

Commentary

Each of the works listed below can guide you to important, recent interpretations of the history of political thought; some offer such interpretations themselves. While none of these specific works is required (see above, however), use them for general reference as well as to familiarize yourself with different interpretations of those theorists of greatest interest to you. Please keep in mind that these sources offer particular interpretations by a variety of authors and do not necessarily reflect any sort of interpretive consensus within the field.

The Cambridge Companion series (focusing on specific theorists, Cambridge University Press).

A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy (Blackwell).

Encyclopedia of Political Theory (3 vol., Sage).

The Oxford Classical Dictionary.

The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory.

Rawls, John. *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy*.

Skinner, Quentin. *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, 2 vols.

Strauss, Leo and Joseph Cropsey. *The History of Political Philosophy*.

Wolin, Sheldon. *Politics and Vision*, expanded edition (Princeton, 2004).

Updated Fall 2012