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# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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## 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.

### Canon

You are responsible for **all** works in the Canon Core. The Theory Field Committee strongly suggests that you familiarize yourself with at least two items (i.e., texts, not authors) in **each** of the historical categories within the Canon Supplemental section. Submit a 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 choose items from the supplemental list in consultation with the members of the Theory Field Committee, who 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*, I 1-6; 10-16; II 17-21, 26, 28-31; 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) ) and *The Prince*.

Marx, *1844 Economic-Philosophic Manuscripts* (estranged labor and private property and communism sections); *On the Jewish Question*, *The German Ideology*, *The Communist Manifesto*, *Capital*, Vol. I (pp. 294-361 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*

Augustine. *City of God*, Preface and Book XIX.  
*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).  
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*.  
Wooton (ed). *Divine Right and Democracy* (an anthology of political writings from 17<sup>th</sup> c. England).

*18th -20th centuries*

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. The Theory Field Committee strongly suggests that you familiarize yourself with at least **six** works from the two supplemental categories. You should choose your six items in consultation with the members of the Theory Field Committee, who 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.) Please submit a list of the supplemental items you have prepared, along with a brief thematic rationale for your choices. We encourage you to meet with us to discuss your list and your rationale at least several months before you plan to take your exam.

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. "Two Concepts of Liberty," in *Four Essays on Liberty*.
- Dahl, Robert. *Preface to Democratic Theory*.
- Downs, Anthony. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*.
- Foucault, Michel. "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History" in *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice*; "Two Lectures" and "Truth and Power," in *Power/Knowledge*; "What is Enlightenment".
- Habermas, Jürgen. *Between Facts and Norms* (Translator's Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 7 and 8); "Discourse Ethics," in *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action*.
- Oakeshott, Michael. "Rationalism and Politics," "The Masses in Representative Democracy," and "The Political Economy of Freedom," in *Rationalism and Politics and Other Essays*.
- 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").
- Selected articles on the philosophy of the social sciences:
1. Hempel, Carl. "The Function of General Laws in History," *The Journal of Philosophy* 39:2 (1942), 35-48.
  2. Popper, Karl. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations" in E. D. Klemke (ed), *Introductory Readings in the Philosophy of Science*.
  3. Taylor, Charles. "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man" in *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. II.
- 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:

- Barber, Benjamin. *Strong Democracy*.
- Benhabib, Seyla (ed). *Democracy and Difference*.
- Cohen, Joshua and Joel Rogers. *On Democracy*.
- Dahl, Robert. *Democracy and its Critics; Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy*.
- Dewey, John. *The Public and its Problems*.
- Gutmann, Amy and Dennis Thompson. *Democracy and Disagreement*.
- Held, David. *Models of Democracy*.
- Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Citizenship*.
- Lefort, Claude. "The Question of Democracy," in *Democracy and Political Theory*.
- Lindblom, Charles. *Politics and Markets*.
- 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*.
- Pitkin, Hanna. *The Concept of Representation*.
- Sandel, Michael. *Democracy's Discontent*.
- Sartori, Giovanni. *Theory of Democracy Revisited, Vols. I and II*.
- Schattschneider, E.E. *The Semi-Sovereign People*.
- Smith, Anna Marie. *Laclau and Mouffe: The Radical Democratic Imaginary*.

## Contemporary Theory Supplemental:

- Arendt, Hannah. *On Violence; Between Past and Future*.
- Avineri, Shlomo. *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*.
- Barry, Brian. *Theories of Justice*.
- Brown, Wendy. *States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity*.
- Cohen, G.A. *Karl Marx's Theory of History*.
- Connolly, William. *Identity/Difference: Democratic Negotiations of Political Paradox*, expanded ed. (Minnesota, 2002).
- 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.
- 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*.
- Hobhouse, L.T. *Liberalism*.
- 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*.
- Pateman, Carole. *The Sexual Contract*.
- Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*.
- Popper, Karl. *The Myth of the Framework*.
- Resnick, Stephen and Richard Wolff. *Knowledge and Class: A Marxian Critique of Political Economy*.
- Rorty, Richard. *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*.
- Sandel, Michael. *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice; Democracy's Discontent*.
- Schmitt, Karl. "The Concept of the Political".
- Spelman, Elizabeth. *Inessential Woman*.
- Sunstein, Cass (ed). *Feminism & Political Theory*.
- Strauss, Leo. *Natural Right and History*.
- Taylor, Charles. "Atomism" in *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. II; "The Politics of Recognition" in *Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition*.
- Walzer, Michael. *Spheres of Justice*.
- Young, Iris. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*.

## **Commentary**

The works listed in the commentary section all offer important, recent interpretations of the history of political thought. While none of these works is required, use them for general reference as well as to familiarize yourself with different interpretations of those theorists of greatest interest to you.

*A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy* (Blackwell).  
McIlwain, C.H. *The Growth of Political Thought in the West: From the Greeks to the End of the Middle Ages*.  
*The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*.  
Rawls, John. *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy*.  
Sabine, George. *A History of Political Theory*.  
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).

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