

READING LIST FOR

POLITICAL THEORY COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

(last updated August 8, 2009)

The following list is not exhaustive. You should consult with your MA or PHD advisor/committee chair, and other committee members regarding the readings on this list in terms of what they expect you to read for the level of exam you will be taking (i.e., either master's or doctorate level). It is possible that your advisor/committee chair will recommend additional readings.

CORE READINGS

Aeschylus. "Agememnon."
_____. "The Choephoroi."
_____. "The Eumenides."

Aquinas, St. Thomas. *Summa Theologiae*. (best accessed in Hackett edition, *On Law, Morality and Politics*)

Arendt, Hannah. *The Human Condition*.

Aristotle. *The Politics*.
_____. *Nicomachean Ethics*.

St. Augustine. *City of God*.
_____. *Confessions*.

Burke, Edmund. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of Christian Religion*.

Cicero. *The Republic*.
_____. "On Duties."

Dewey, John. *Liberalism and Social Action*.
_____. *The Public and Its Problems*.

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish*.

Freud, Sigmund. *Civilization and Its Discontents*.

Habermas, Jürgen. *Theory of Communicative Action*.
_____. *Between Facts and Norms*.

Hegel, G.W.F. *The Philosophy of History*.
_____. *Phenomenology of Spirit*.
_____. *Philosophy of Right*.

Heidegger, Martin. *Being and Time*.
_____. *The Question Concerning Technology*.
_____. "The Origin of the Work of Art."

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*.

Hooker, Richard. *The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

Horkheimer, Max, and Adorno, Theodore. *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*.

Hume, David. *Treatise on Human Nature*.

Kant, Immanuel. *The Critique of Practical Reason*.
_____. "Perpetual Peace."
_____. "What is Enlightenment?"
_____. "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent."
_____. "Theory and Practice."

Locke, John. *Two Treatises of Government*.
_____. "A Letter Concerning Toleration."
_____. *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*.

Luther, Martin. "The Freedom of a Christian."

Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*.
_____. *The Discourses*.

Madison, James, et. al., *The Federalist Papers*.

Marx, Karl. "On the Jewish Question"
_____. "The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844."

_____. “The German Ideology.”
_____. “The Communist Manifesto.”
_____. *Capital*, Vol. I.

Mill, John Stuart. “On Liberty.”
_____. “Representative Government.”
_____. “Utilitarianism.”
_____. “On the Subjection of Women.”

Milton, John. *Areopagitica*.

Montaigne, Michel de. *Essays*.

Montesquieu. *The Spirit of the Laws*.
_____. *Persian Letters*.

More, Thomas. *Utopia*.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*.
_____. *Beyond Good and Evil*.
_____. *On the Genealogy of Morals*.

Paine, Thomas. *The Rights of Man*.

Pascal, Blaise. *Pensées*.

Plato. *The Apology*.
_____. *Crito*.
_____. *The Republic*.
_____. *Gorgias*.
_____. *Laws*

Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*.
_____. *Political Liberalism*.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The First and Second Discourses*.
_____. *Emile*.
_____. *Social Contract*.

Smith, Adam. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*.

_____. *The Wealth of Nations.*

Sophocles. “Antigone.”

_____. “Oedipus the King.”

_____. “Electra.”

Spinoza, Benedict de. *A Theologico-Political Treatise.*

Thucydides. *History of the Peloponnesian War.*

Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America.*

_____. *The Old Regime and the French Revolution.*

Vico, Giambattista. *The New Science.*

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.*

_____. “Politics as a Vocation”

_____. “Science as a Vocation”

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *A Vindication of the Rights of Women.*

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Please consult with your advisor/committee chair regarding the recommended readings listed below.

- Arendt, Hannah. *On Revolution*
_____. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*
- Durkheim, Emile. *The Division of Labor in Society*.
- Gadamer, Hans Georg. *Truth and Method*.
- Hartz, Louis. *The Liberal Tradition in America*.
- Hirschman, Albert. *The Passions and the Interests*.
- Levinas, Emmanuel. *Totality and Infinity*.
- Lewis, C.S. *The Abolition of Man*.
- Löwith, Karl. *Meaning in History*.
- Lucretius. *The Nature of the Universe*.
- Lyotard, Jean François. *The Differend*.
- MacIntyre, Alasdair. *After Virtue*.
- Macpherson, C. B. *Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*.
- Manent, Pierre. *An Intellectual History of Liberalism*.
- Marcuse, Herbert. *One-Dimensional Man*.
- Maritain, Jacques. *Man and State*.
- McWilliams, W.C. *The Idea of Fraternity in America*
- Murray, John Courtney. *We Hold These Truths*.
- Niebuhr, Reinhold. *The Nature and Destiny of Man*.
_____. *Moral Man, Immoral Society*.
- Oakeshott, Michael. *Rationalism in Politics*.
_____. *On Human Conduct*.
- Ortega y Gasset, José. *The Revolt of the Masses*.
- Rommen, Heinrich. *The Natural Law*.
- Rorty, Richard. *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*.
- Sandel, Michael. *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Search for a Method*.
- Schumpeter, Joseph A. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*.
- Schmitt, Carl. *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*.
- Strauss, Leo. *Natural Right and History*.
_____. *What is Political Philosophy?*
_____. (ed.) *The History of Political Philosophy*
- Taylor, Charles. *Sources of the Self; A Secular Age*
- Voegelin, Eric. *The New Science of Politics*.
- Walzer, Michael. *Spheres of Justice*.
_____. *Just and Unjust Wars*.

Winch, Peter. *The Idea of a Social Science*.
Wolin, Sheldon. *Politics and Vision*