Political Theory Comprehensive Exam List

Revised Feb 2018

Department of Political Science, University of Florida

This reading list provides a guide for students preparing for the political theory comprehensive exam. We expect all students to have read the bolded works, and a significant portion of the non-bolded works listed in both sections. We also expect first-field theory students to be familiar with some of the relevant secondary literature for the authors of bolded works.

Section I: History of Political Thought

* Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War
* Sophocles, Antigone
* Aristophanes, Clouds
* Plato, Republic, Laws, Apology, Crito, Gorgias
* Aristotle, Nichomachean Ethics, Politics
* Augustine, City of God, Confessions
* Cicero, Republic, On Duties, Laws
* Aquinas, Summa Theologica (Treatise on Law)
* Machiavelli, The Prince, Discourses
* Luther, Secular Authority
* Calvin, On God and Political Duty
* More, Utopia
* Hobbes, Leviathan
* Locke, Second Treatise of Government, A Letter Concerning Toleration
* Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws, Persian Letters
* Rousseau, Discourses and Social Contract
* Constant, "The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns"
* Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" "Perpetual Peace,” Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals
* Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments, Wealth of Nations
* Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France
* Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
* Madison, Hamilton, Jay, The Federalist Papers
* Paine, Common Sense, Rights of Man
* Tocqueville, Democracy in America
* Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"
* Hegel, Philosophy of Right, "Lordship and Bondage" in The
Phenomenology of Spirit
* Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*
* Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil, Genealogy of Morals*
* Douglas, “What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?”
* Lenin, *Imperialism, State and Revolution, What is to Be Done*
* Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks*
* Gandhi, *Non-Violent Resistance (Satyagraha)*
* DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
* Dewey, *The Public and its Problems*
* Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*
* Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*
* Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
* Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth, Black Skin, White Masks*
* Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
* Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*
* Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty*
* Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*
* Arendt, *The Human Condition, On Revolution*
* King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”
* Habermas, *Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*
* Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement, A Theory of Justice*
* Foucault, *Discipline and Punish, Power/Knowledge,*
"Governmentality"

Section II: Contemporary Theorists and Current Controversies

* Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer*
* Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*
* Charles Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*
* Seyla Benhabib, *Situating the Self, Another Cosmopolitanism*
* Wendy Brown, *States of Injury*
* Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*
* G. A. Cohen, *Rescuing Justice and Equality*
* William Connolly, *Identity/Difference*
* Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*
* Jacques Derrida, "Declarations of Independence," "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"
* Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History," "What is an Author?"
* Nancy Fraser, *Justice Interruptus*
* Hans-Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method*
* Clifford Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures*
* Raymond Geuss, *Philosophy and Real Politics*
* John Gunnell, *Political Theory: Tradition and Interpretation, The Descent of Political Theory*
* Jurgen Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*
* Bonnie Honig, *Political Theory and the Displacement of Politics*
* Max Horkheimer, "What is Critical Theory?"
* George Kateb, *Inner Ocean*
* Will Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*
* Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*
* Claude Lefort, *Democracy and Political Theory*
* Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*
* Jean-Francois Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*
* Alasdair Maclntyre, *After Virtue*
* CB Macpherson, *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*
* Jane Mansbridge, *Beyond Adversary Democracy*
* David Miller, *On Nationality*
* Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract*
* Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
* Michael Oakeshott, "Rationalism in Politics"
* Susan Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family*
* Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory, The Sexual Contract*
* Hanna Pitkin, *The Concept of Representation*
* Philip Pettit, *Republicanism*
* J.G.A. Pocock, *The Machiavellian Moment, "Languages and Their Implications"
* Jacques Rancière, *Disagreement*
* Richard Rorty, *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity, Philosophy and Social Hope*
* Michael Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*
* Judith Shklar, *American Citizenship: The Quest for Inclusion*
* Quentin Skinner, *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought,*
Liberty Before Liberalism, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas"
* Leo Strauss, Natural Right and History, "What is Political Philosophy?" Persecution and the Art of Writing
* James Tully, Strange Multiplicity, “Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity”
* Max Weber, The Methodology of the Social Sciences
* Michael Walzer, Spheres of Justice
* Bernard Williams, Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy
* Sheldon Wolin, Politics and Vision, "Political Theory as a Vocation"
* Iris Marion Young, Justice and the Politics of Difference