WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Department of
Political Science

Department of Political Science
MA Reading List
Political Theory

Familiarize yourself with **all** the items in each of the *Canon* and *Contemporary and Democratic Theory* categories. Read the entire text unless selections are specified.

Canon

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

Contemporary and Democratic Theory

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. *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* ("Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"); *Power/Knowledge* ("Two Lectures" and "Truth and Power").
Habermas, Jürgen. *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. "Politics as a Vocation."

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, 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).

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