

Department of Political Science
Yale University

Political Theory Exam List Revised 2021

Part I

The texts below are points of reference that enable political theorists of many kinds to take part in a common conversation. Everyone studying political theory at the graduate level should aspire to be familiar with them.

Students must demonstrate a good understanding of the authors and texts followed by (R) to pass the department's general exam in political theory.

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

Plato, *Apology, Crito, Republic* (R)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics; Politics* (R)

Cicero, *On the Commonwealth (De Republica); On the Laws (De Legibus); On Duties (De Officiis)*

Augustine, *City of God*

Aquinas, Questions on Law, from *Summa Theologica*

[See Joshua Parens and Joseph Macfarland (eds), *Medieval Political Philosophy: A Sourcebook*]

Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince, The Discourses on Livy* (R)

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan* (R)

Spinoza, Baruch. *Theologico-Political Treatise* (R)

Locke, John. *Second Treatise of Government; Letter Concerning Toleration* (R)

Montesquieu, Baron de. *Spirit of the Laws*

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality; Social Contract* (R)

Smith, Adam. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments; The Wealth of Nations*

Publius, *Federalist Papers*

Kant, Immanuel. "Perpetual Peace"; "What is Enlightenment?"; "The Idea of a Universal History with Cosmopolitan Intent"; *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Hegel, G.W.F. *Philosophy of Right; Introduction to Philosophy of History* (R)

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

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

Constant, Benjamin. "The liberty of the ancients compared with that of the moderns"; *Principles of Politics Applicable to all Representative Governments*

Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America; The Old Regime and the Revolution* (R)

Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty; Utilitarianism; Considerations on Representative Government; The Subjection of Women* (R)

Douglass, Frederick. "What to the Slave Is the Fourth July?"

Marx, Karl. *On the Jewish Question; German Ideology (Part I); Communist Manifesto; Capital* (R)

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Genealogy of Morals; Beyond Good and Evil*

DuBois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903); *Darkwater: Voices From Within the Veil* (1920); *Black Reconstruction in America* (1935)

Gandhi, M.K. 'Hind swaraj' in Gandhi, *Hind swaraj and other writings*, Anthony Parel, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge U

Weber, Max *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; "Politics as a Vocation" and "Science as a Vocation"

Gramsci, Antonio. *Pre-Prison Writings* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), ch. 1-3.

Lenin, V. I. *State and Revolution* (1917), R.C. Tucker (ed.), *The Lenin Anthology* (New York, 1975).

Schmitt, Carl. *The Concept of the Political* (1919); *Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* (1923)

Schumpeter, Joseph. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (1942).

Beauvoir, Simone de. *The Second Sex* (1949) (R)

Arendt, Hannah. *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951); *The Human Condition* (University of Chicago Press, 1957); *On Revolution* (1963) (R)

Part II

The texts in this section (published within the last seventy years) are among those that have been important to debates in contemporary political theory in the recent past.

A good understanding of all the texts below is required for the political theory exam:

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities* (Verso, 1983)

Barry, Brian. *Justice as Impartiality* (Oxford, 1996).

Dahl, Robert. *A Preface to Democratic Theory* (1953).

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish* (1979); *Security, Territory, Population* (1977-78); "What is Enlightenment?" in *The Foucault Reader*, Rabinow, ed. (Pantheon, 1984) (R)

Fraser, Nancy. "From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a Postsocialist Age," *Justice Interruptus: Critical Reflection on the Postsocialist Condition*, ch. 1.

Habermas, Jürgen. *The Inclusion of the Other* (MIT Press, 1998), chs. 4 and 9.

Hirschmann, Albert. *Exit, Voice and Loyalty* (Harvard University Press, 1970)

Kymlicka, Will. *Multicultural Citizenship* (Oxford University Press, 1995)

MacIntyre, Alasdair. *After Virtue, 2nd ed.* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1984), chs. 1---6; 9---12; 14---18.

Manin, Bernard. *Principles of Representative Government* (Cambridge, 1997)

Mills, Charles. *The Racial Contract*

Pateman, Carole. *The Sexual Contract*, second edition (Stanford, 2018)

Pitts, Jennifer. *A Turn to Empire, The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France*

Przeworski, Adam. "Minimalist democracy: A defense," in Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordon, *Democracy's Value* (Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice* (1971); *Political Liberalism* (1993)

Sen, Amartya. *Inequality Reexamined* (Harvard University Press/Russell Sage, 1992).

Skinner, Quentin. *Liberty Before Liberalism*

Walzer, Michael. *Interpretation and Social Criticism* (Harvard University Press, 1987).

Young, Iris. *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton University Press)

In addition, students taking the theory exam must compile a list of ten texts from the list below that they will be responsible for on the exam. It is recommended that students construct a list that allows them to investigate two particular themes in some depth. Lists should be submitted to Collen Amaro one month before the exam.

Ambedkar, B.R. *Annihilation of Caste* (1963)

Arrow, Kenneth. *Social Choice and Individual Values* (1951)

Barry, Brian. *Culture and Equality: An Egalitarian Critique of Multiculturalism*

Benhabib, Seyla, ed. *Democracy and Difference. Contesting the Boundaries of the Political*

Berlin, Isaiah. "Two concepts of liberty," in Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty* (1958)

Brennan, Jason. *Against Democracy*. Princeton, 2017.

Butler, Judith. *Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Routledge, 1999)

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe*

Chambers, Simone. "Rhetoric and the public sphere: has deliberation abandoned mass democracy?," *Political Theory*, June 2009, vol. 37 no. 3, pp. 323-350

Cohen, G.A. "On the currency of egalitarian justice," *Ethics*, vol. 99, no. 4 (July 1989), pp. 906-944.

Cohen, Joshua. "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" in *The Good Polity: Normative Analysis of the State*, eds. Alan Hamlin and Philip Pettit

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color", *Stanford Law Review* 1241 (1991)

Descola, Philippe. *Beyond Nature and Culture* (University of Chicago Press, 2014)

Disch, Lisa. "Toward a Mobilization Conception of Democratic Representation," *APSR* (2011) 105 (1).

Downs, Anthony. *An Economic Theory of Democracy* (Harper and Row, 1957)

Dworkin, Ronald. *Law's Empire* (Harvard University Press, 1986), chs. 1-7. / "What is equality? Part I: Equality of welfare," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 10, no. 3, (Summer 1981), pp. 185-246. / "What is equality? Part II: Equality of resources," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 10, no. 4, (Fall 1981), pp. 283-345.

Elster, Jon. *Ulysses and the Sirens* (Cambridge, 1979) / Elster, Jon. "The Market and the Forum: Three Varieties of Political Theory"

Estlund, David. "Beyond Fairness and Deliberation: The Epistemic Dimension of Democratic Authority," in Bohman and Rehg

Fanon, Franz. *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961)

Folbre, Nancy. "Exploitation comes home: a critique of the Marxian theory of family labor," *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, vol. 6, no. 4 (1982), pp. 317--29.

Fraser, Nancy. *Scales of Justice. Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World*

Fricke, Miranda. *Epistemic Injustice*

Gaventa, John. *Power and Powerlessness* (University of Illinois Press, 1980).

Goodin, Robert E. *Utilitarianism as a Public Philosophy* (Cambridge, 1995).

Guinier, Lani. "Groups, Representation and Race--Conscious Districting: A case of the Emperor's Clothes" *Texas Law Review*, vol. 71, 1589 (June, 1993).

Habermas, Jurgen *Between Facts and Norms*, (MIT, 1996), secs. 2, 7, 8, 9.

Hayek, Friedrich. *The road to serfdom* (London: Routledge, 1986)

Hayward, Clarissa *Defacing Power* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)

Honneth, Axel. *The Idea of Socialism: Towards A Renewal* (Polity, 2016)

Kosellek, Reinhold. *Critique and Crisis*

Lafont, Cristina. "Deliberation, Participation, and Democratic Legitimacy: Should Deliberative Mini-Publics Shape Public Policy?" *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 23/1 (2015), 40-63.

Latour, Bruno. *Politics in the New Climatic Regime* (Polity, 2018)

Lukes, Steven. *Power: A Radical View*, 2nd edition (Palgrave MacMillan 2004)

MacCallum, Gerald C., Jr, "Negative and Positive Freedom," in *Philosophy, Politics and Society* (Fourth Series), ed by Peter Laslett, W.G. Runciman and Quentin Skinner

Mackie, Gerry. *Democracy Defended* (Cambridge, 2003) chs. 1--6, 9--10, 14--15

MacKinnon, Catherine. *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*

Mamdani, Mahmood. *Define and Rule. Native as Political Identity*

Manent, Pierre. *A World Beyond Politics? A Defense of the Nation-State*

Mansbridge, Jane. 2003. "Rethinking Representation." *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 515--528. / Mansbridge, Jane. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'," *The Journal of Politics* 61 (August 1999): 628--657.

Mantena, Karuna. *Alibis of Empire*

Mills, Charles W. "Ideal Theory as Ideology" *Hypatia*

Nash, Jennifer C. "Re-thinking Intersectionality" *Feminist Review* (2008)

Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (Basic Books, 1974), chs. 1--5, 7, pp. 149--64, 167--231.

Oakeshott, Michael. *Rationalism in Politics* (1962)

Ober, Josh. *Demopolis: Democracy Before Liberalism in Theory and Practice* (Cambridge 2017) / Ober, Josiah. 2008. *Democracy and Knowledge: Innovation and Learning in Classical Athens*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

Okin, Susan. *Justice, Gender, and the Family* (Basic Books, 1989), ch. 8.

Olson, Mancur. *The Logic of Collective Action* (Harvard University Press, 1965)

- Pateman, Carole. *Participation and democratic theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1970.
- Pettit, Philip. *Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government* (Oxford, 1997)
- Philips, Anne. *The Politics of Presence* (Oxford, 1998)
- Pitkin, Hanna. *The Concept of Representation* (University of California, 1972)
- Pitts, Jennifer. *A Turn to Empire, The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France*
- Rae, Douglas. "Knowing power," in Ian Shapiro and Grant Reeher, eds., *Power, Inequality and Democratic Politics* (Westview Press, 1989), pp. 17---49.
- Raz, Joseph. *The Morality of Freedom* (Oxford, 1986), chs. 1---4, 7---8, 11, 14---15.
- Rehfeld, Andrew. "Towards a General Theory of Political Representation." *Journal of Politics* 68(1): 1-21.
- Riker, William. *Liberalism Against Populism* (Freeman, 1982), chs. 1---7, 10.
- Rorty, Richard. *Contingency, Irony, Solidarity* (Cambridge, 1989), chs. 1---3, *ch. 4.
- Rosanvallon, Pierre. *Counter-Democracy*
- Sandel, Michael. *Justice and the Limits of Liberalism*
- Shklar, Judith. *American Citizenship*
- Singer, Peter. *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*
- Smith, Rogers. *Stories of Peoplehood: The Politics and Morals of Political Membership*
- Song, Sarah. *Justice, Gender, and the Politics of Multiculturalism* (Cambridge, 2007)
- Strauss, Leo. *Natural Right and History*; "What is political philosophy?"
- Taylor, Charles. *Hegel and Modern Society* (Cambridge University Press, 1979) Beitz, Charles. *Political Theory and International Relations* (Princeton, 1999)
- Taylor, Charles. *Sources of the Self; Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition; A Secular Age* (Harvard University Press, 2009), Part I and Conclusion
- Tuck, Richard. *The Sleeping Sovereign*
- Urbiniati, Nadia and Mark Warren, "The concept of representation in contemporary political theory", *Annual Review of Political Science*, June 2008, Vol. 11, pp. 387-412
- van Parijs, Philippe. *Real Freedom for All* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995)
- Walzer, Michael. *Spheres of Justice* (Basic Books, 1983), chs. 1---5, 7, 9, 11---13.
- Williams, Bernard. "The idea of equality," in Peter Laslett and W.G. Runciman eds.,
- Wolin, Sheldon. *Politics and Vision*; "Fugitive Democracy" in Benhabib (ed), *Democracy and Difference. Contesting the Boundaries of the Political* (Princeton, 2006)
- Young, Iris Marion. "Deferring Group Representation," in *Ethnicity and Group Rights*, ed. Ian Shapiro and Will Kymlicka (New York University Press, 1997), 349---376.