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, Niccolo. *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*
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)
Weber, Max *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; “Politics as a Vocation” and “Science as a Vocation”
Schmitt, Carl. *The Concept of the Political* (1919); *Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* (1923)
Beauvoir, Simone de. *The Second Sex* (1949) (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)
Mills, Charles. *The Racial Contract*
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.

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*
Butler, Judith. *Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Routledge, 1999)
Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe*
Estlund, David. “Beyond Fairness and Deliberation: The Epistemic Dimension of Democratic Authority,” in Bohman and Regh

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


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

Fricker, Miranda. Epistemic Injustice


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


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


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


Mantena, Karuna. Alibis of Empire

Mills, Charles W. “Ideal Theory as Ideology” Hypatia


Oakeshott, Michael. Rationalism in Politics (1962)


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