Political Theory Reading List – revised 11.30.2015

Ancient

Plato: Apology; Crito; Republic; Gorgias
Aristophanes: The Clouds
Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics; Politics
Cicero: Republic; Laws I, II (1-23); On Duties
Thucydides: The History of the Peloponnesian Wars. Book I entire; Book II, sections 1-70; Book III, sections 1-85; Book IV, sections 1-41, 58-135; Book V, sections 1-28, 43-47, 84-116; Books VI and VII entire; Book VIII, sections 45-99.

Medieval

Augustine: City of God, Books 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 14, 19, 22 (ch. 1-7).
Aquinas: Summa Theologica, I-II, 49-52, 55-64, 90-108; II-II 47-80, 120.

Early Modern 1500-1800

Niccolò Machiavelli: The Prince; Discourses on the First Ten Books of Livy
Thomas Hobbes: Leviathan, Parts I-II
John Locke: Second Treatise of Government; A Letter Concerning Toleration
Montesquieu: The Spirit of the Laws (Cohler translation, Cambridge) Author’s Preface, Foreword, Books 1-5, 9-12, 14-16, 19, 20-22, 24-25, 29

Mary Wollstonecraft: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Dedication, Introduction, Chapters 1-3, 6-7, 9-12)

Immanuel Kant: Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals; "Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Perspective"; "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?"; "On the Common Saying: This May be True in Theory but It Does Not Hold in Practice"; "Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"; Metaphysics of Morals, Pt. I

Later Modern 1800-1950


John Stuart Mill: On Liberty; The Subjection of Women, Utilitarianism

Karl Marx: The Communist Manifesto; “Alienated Labor” from the Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844; "On The Jewish Question”; German Ideology, Pt. I; Theses on Feuerbach; “Wage Labor and Capital”

Friedrich Nietzsche: Beyond Good and Evil;

The Genealogy of Morality


Contemporary (1950-present)

Isaiah Berlin: ‘Two concepts of liberty’

Leo Strauss: An Introduction to Political Philosophy: 10 Essays by Leo Strauss, Hilail Gildin ed.

Hannah Arendt: The Human Condition; “What is Authority?”; “What is Freedom?”


Jürgen Habermas: The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, Parts 1-11; Between Facts and Norms, chs. 1,3,7,8,9, appendix 1
Michael Oakeshott: Rationalism in Politics (title essay plus “Political Education,” “Tower of Babel,” “The Voice of Poetry in the Conversation of Mankind”)


Alasdair MacIntyre: After Virtue, chs. 1-6, 9, 14-17

Susan Okin: Justice, Gender, and the Family, chs. 1, 2, 5, 7, 8


“Discipline and Punish, Pt.I ch1; Pt.II ch.1; Pt. III chs. 2-3.

American

Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

The Federalist Papers: 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 14-17, 23, 31, 35-37, 39, 46-47, 49, 51-53, 62-63, 70-72, 78, 84, 85

James Madison

- “Vices of the Political System of the United States”
- “Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments,” 20 June 1785
- “Property”


Sarah Grimké, Letters on the Equality of the Sexes

Tocqueville: Democracy in America (Lawrence translation or Mansfield / Winthrop translation); Author’s Introduction, Vol. I, Pt. I, Ch. 1-4, 5 (pp. 61-68, 87-98), 8 (pp. 151-70 only); Vol. I, Pt. II, Ch. 1, 2, 5 (pp. 189-202, 208-12; 220-30 only), 7-10 (pp. 395-400), conclusion to Vol. I (408-13); Vol. II, Pt. I, Ch. 1-6, 8, 10, 13-14, 17, 20; Pt. II, Ch. 1, 2, 4-5, 8-15, 17, 19-20; Pt. III, Ch. 1, 4, 7-12, 17-26; Pt. IV entire.

John C. Calhoun, Disquisition on Government

Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments"

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Lincoln’s Speech at Springfield, June 16 1858 (“House Divided Speech”); First Joint Debate Ottawa August 21, 1858; Second Joint Debate Free Port, August 27, 1858; Seventh Joint

Abraham Lincoln, Speech on the Repeal of the Missouri Compromise, Peoria, Illinois, 16 October 1854

*Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1857)

Abraham Lincoln, Speech on the Dred Scott Decision, June 1857

Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 19 November 1863

Lincoln, Second Inaugural, 4 March 1865

Frederick Douglass

- “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”
- “Free Blacks Must Learn Trades”; “Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln”

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Solitude of Self”

Herbert Croly, *The Promise of American Life*, ch. 7

Theodore Roosevelt, “the New Nationalism”

Franklin Roosevelt, “Commonwealth Club Address”; “Second Bill of Rights”; Four Freedoms”

Martin Luther King, Letter from a Birmingham Jail; “I Have a Dream”

Irving Kristol, *Capitalism, Socialism, Nihilism* in Neoconservatism :the Autobiography of an Ideal