**PPE Introduction to Politics Teaching**

Politics teaching at St Peter's College for 1st year students will begin in Hilary Term 2024. Students start with Philosophy and Economics in their first term. However, it is very helpful to familiarize yourself with key texts that you will study. Allocation to specific tutorials, and therefore topics, will take place in the week before term starts, and you will be expected to produce your first essay for Politics, as for other subjects, in the first week of Hilary term.

You are therefore advised to read the following books, before you arrive:

J-J Rousseau, *The Social Contract.*

A. de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*. (This is a big text: you should concentrate initially

on the following chapters:

* In Volume 1: ‘Author's Introduction’; Part 1, Chapters 3-5; Part 2: Chapters 6-9.
* In Volume 2: Part 2: Chapters 1-8; Part 4, Chapters 1-8.)

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Manifesto of the Communist Party; Preface to a Critique

of Political Economy. The best collection for Marx is D. McLellan, Karl Marx: Selected

Writings

*Read the originals not secondary commentary*.

*Please note, for all of our recommendations below it is not necessary to purchase the text. Since we start in Hilary Term (January 2024), there will be enough time to read these texts in Oxford if you are unable to locate a copy in your home town.*

**Outline of Teaching for the Introduction to Politics Course**

The first year Politics course covers an introduction to Political Theory and to Practice of Politics with an emphasis on comparison across different political systems. As there will be considerable choice for students from a wide-ranging syllabus there is no requited reading at this stage. However, students might benefit from reading some introductory texts on politics. The 1st year exams will be written in Week 9 of Trinity Term, the week after that term ends. Hence, there is plenty of time but you will find it helpful to read a few introductory books on politics. Suggested standard readings from the faculty reading list include:

J. Cheibub (2007), *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism and Democracy*, Cambridge: CUP.

Catriona McKinnon, Robert Jubb, and Patrick Tomlin (eds.), *Issues in Political Theory* (2019).

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy” A Beginners’ Guide for Students and* Politicians (2019).

Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (2015)

Charles Tilly. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990 1990.* Cambridge.

James Scott. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed.* New Haven: Yale University Press.

Lijphart, A (2012), *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performances in Thirty-Six Countries*, New Haven: Yale UP.  
  
Muller, Jan-Werner (2017), *What is Populism?,* Penguin Random House, UK

Tilly, C. and Sidney Tarrow (2015), Contentious Politics. 2nd. Ed. Oxford: OUP.

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