PPE Introduction to Politics Teaching

Politics teaching at St Peter's College will begin in Hilary Term 2020. However, it is very helpful to familiarise 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.)


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 2018), there will be enough time to read these texts in Oxford if you are unable to locate a copy in your home town.

An overview of the rest of the first year course can be found overleaf.
Outline of Teaching for the Introduction to Politics Course

The first year Politics course covers an introduction Political Theory and Comparative Government 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 required reading at this stage. However, students benefit from reading introductions to American, British, French and German politics for a start. The exams are will 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 one or both of the introductory books on the politics of some or all of these different countries, as outlined below.

1. American Politics and Government
   W Leuchtenburg, *On Roosevelt and his Legacy*
   R. Neustadt, *Presidential Power and Modern Presidents*
   * Failing which, earlier editions of their work on similar topics.

2. British Politics and Government
   K Morgan, *Britain Since 1945: The People’s Peace*
   D Kavanagh, *British Politics: Continuity and Change*

3. French Politics and Government
   M Larkin, *France Since the Popular Front*
   S Hazareesingh, *Political Traditions in France*

4. German Politics and Government
   G Smith & W E Paterson (eds), *Developments in German Politics*
   A J Nicholls, *The Bonn Republic: West German Democracy 1945-1990*

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