



Philosophy, Politics & History BA Reading List 2018/19

INTRODUCTION

In your first year of your Philosophy, Politics & History BA programme you will take four courses, one in each of the PPH subjects. These three – as first-year courses – are broad and introductory in scope, designed to give you an overview of a subject as the foundation for your studies. This reading list will cover the three courses. In addition, you will take one extra course in your major subject.

POLITICS – MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

For some general overviews of Modern Political Thought, I would suggest you look at:

Alistair Edwards and Jules Townshend, ed., *Interpreting Modern Political Philosophy* (2002)

David Miller, *Political Philosophy, a Very Short Introduction* (VSI) (2003)

John Rawls (2008): *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, Belknap Press. This is a good reference text to have on hand with some helpful introductions:

David Boucher and Paul Kelly, *Political Thinkers from Socrates to the Present* (2009).

You may want to get started on some of the thinkers that we will be looking at, especially Hobbes, who we will be studying in the first week: Hobbes, *Leviathan*

There are some good general texts on Hobbes that will prepare you well for the first week of the module:

Hannah Dawson, *Life Lessons from Hobbes* (2015)

Patricia Springborg, *Cambridge Companion to Hobbes's Leviathan* (2007)

Richard Tuck, *Hobbes: Very Short Introduction* (Oxford) (2002)

PHILOSOPHY - ETHICS

For summer reading to set you up for the course, we recommend a couple of works in general ethics, together with two very readable dialogues by the first of the main authors we study in the course, Plato.

Michael Sandel, *Justice: What Is the Right Thing To Do?* (Penguin paperback, 2010) (This is an especially fine introduction to the subject.)

Simon Blackburn, *Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*, (OUP, 2003), originally published as *Being Good: A Short Introduction to Ethics*

Plato, *Crito* (a short work you can find in many different editions, often as part of a group of four dialogues commonly entitled *The Last Days of Socrates*)

Plato, *Protagoras* (also in many editions, or, like the *Crito*, readily available online)

HISTORY – BRITAIN AND THE WIDER WORLD

This is a very wide-ranging course, which aims to introduce students to very long sweep of British history, from the fall of the Roman Empire to the 1980s. It also aims to give some impression of Britain's impact on the rest of the world during that time – and also, conversely, of the impact such interactions had on the nature of Britain itself. As such, not surprisingly, there is no one book that can function as a 'textbook' for this course, but students are encourage to look at:

Morgan, K.O. (ed.) (2010), *The Oxford History of Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. This book has a number of good essays.

Beyond this, the following are some classic texts which provide a taste of the medieval, early modern, and modern parts of the course:

Ward-Perkins, B. (2005), *The Fall of Rome and the End of Civilization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Elliott, J. H. (1992), *The Old World and the New*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Russell, C. (1990), *The Causes of the English Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Porter, B. (2004), *The Absent-Minded Imperialists: Empire, Society, and Culture in Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Darwin, J. (1988), *Britain and Decolonisation: The Retreat from Empire in the Post-war World*. Basingstoke: Macmillan.