

# POLI5001 Political Thought 1: Sovereignty, Rights and the Social Contract (Semester 1)

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112 items

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## Primary Texts (10 items)

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The following primary texts must be read by all students on the module. These are classic texts of modern political thought, and copies have been placed in the short loan collection. They will also be cheap to buy, and are freely available online. The [Internet Archive](#) is a good place to look for freely available online copies of these texts.

Do read these texts before relevant lectures and seminars, even if you only manage a few paragraphs or pages. Every week, specific chapters and passages will be specified. Although the language might be difficult, first-hand knowledge of these texts is extremely valuable. In the first instance, reading the original texts gives you a 'feel' for the author and the context in which they were writing. In the second instance, the textbooks and commentaries all give different interpretations of the classic texts, and you will need to be able to refer to the original text to decide what you think the original author was trying to say, and how they should be understood.

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**'The prince', selections from 'The Discourses' and other writings: Selections**, by Niccolo

Machiavelli; John Plamenatz; Allan Gilbert, 1972

**Book**

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**The Prince**, by Niccolo

Machiavelli, 2014

**Book**

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**Leviathan**, by Thomas Hobbes; Richard Tuck, 1991

**Book** | Available as print and eBook

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**Two treatises of government**, by John Locke; Peter Laslett, 1988

**Book** | Available as print and eBook

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**The social contract and other later political writings**, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 2019

**Book**

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**The social contract, and, Discourses**, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau; G. D. H. Cole, 1913

**Book**

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**The social contract: and, the first and second discourses**, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Susan Dunn; Gita May, ©2002

[Book](#)

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**A vindication of the rights of woman**, by Mary Wollstonecraft; Miriam Brody, 1992

[Book](#) | Available as print and eBook

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**On liberty**, by John Stuart Mill, ©2001

[Book](#) | We have 2 e-book versions of this title.

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## Recommended Textbooks (18 items)

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**Political thinkers: from Socrates to the present**, edited by David Boucher; P. J. Kelly, 2017

[Book](#) | Recommended | This is the 3rd edition

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**Political thinkers: from Socrates to the present**, by David Boucher; P. J. Kelly, 2009

[Book](#) | Recommended | This is the 2nd edition

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**A history of modern political thought: major political thinkers from Hobbes to Marx**, by Iain Hampsher-Monk, 1992

[Book](#) | Recommended

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**Capitalism and its critics: capitalism in social and political theory**, by Gerard Delanty; Neal Harris, 2023

[Book](#) | Recommended

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**Modern political theory from Hobbes to Marx: key debates**, by Jack Lively; Andrew Reeve, 1989

[Book](#) | Recommended

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**History of western political thought: a thematic introduction**, by John Morrow, 2005

[Book](#) | Recommended

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See also:

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**A history of modern political thought: the question of interpretation**, by Gary K. Browning, 2016

[Book](#) | Available as print and e-book

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**The history of political thought: a short introduction**, by R. N. Berki, 1977

[Book](#)

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**The Blackwell encyclopaedia of political thought**, by David Miller; Janet Coleman; William E. Connolly; Alan Ryan, 1991

[Book](#)

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**Interpreting modern political philosophy: from Machiavelli to Marx**, by Alistair Edwards; Jules Townshend, 2002

[Book](#)

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**Interpreting modern political philosophy: from Machiavelli to Marx**, by Alistair Edwards;  
Jules Townshend, 2002

Book

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**Man and society: political and social theories from Machiavelli to Marx**, by John Plamenatz;  
M. E. Plamenatz; Robert Wokler, 1992

Book

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**Man and society: a critical examination of some important social and political theories from Machiavelli to Marx, Vol.1**, by John Plamenatz, 1963

Book

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**A history of political theory**, by George Holland Sabine; Thomas Landon Thorson, c1973

Book

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**A history of political theory**, by George Holland Sabine, 1951

Book

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**History of political philosophy**, by Leo Strauss; Joseph Cropsey, 1987

Book

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**Political theory in retrospect: from the ancient Greeks to the 20th century**, by Geraint Williams, 1991

Book

## Journals (7 items)

A number of journals taken by the Library contain articles on political theory and the history of political thought:

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### History of Political Thought

Journal | **Recommended** | This is another high quality journal and it is specifically devoted to the history of political thought. Most theorists are the subject of an article in this journal.

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### Political studies

Journal | This is a prestigious journal which has useful articles on political concepts and specific political theorists—new interpretations and readings—as well as reviews of new books from which an up-to-date survey of the field can be maintained.

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### History of European ideas

Journal

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### Political theory

Journal

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### Contemporary political theory

Journal | A useful feature article in this journal is 'Political Theory Revisited'

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European journal of political theory: EJPT., 2002-

**Journal**

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You can also simply use **LibrarySearch** to look for articles using keywords such as 'Hobbes' or 'sovereignty' and so on.

You can also look in the bibliographies of articles and books you borrow from the library to find more sources.

Below are some examples of journal articles you might find in your searches.

**Selected commentaries on individual thinkers** (31 items)

The University Library has a range of critical and historical works in this field and all students should familiarise themselves with the bibliography by examining the shelves and browsing, consulting the catalogues. What follows is a select list of good monographs on the specific modern political thinkers studied on the course, many of them written for undergraduate students, and available in inexpensive paperback editions.

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**On Machiavelli** (6 items)

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The political philosophy of  
Niccolo

**Machiavelli**, by Filippo Del Lucchese, 2015

Book

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**Machiavelli and mystery of state**, by Peter S. Donaldson, 1988

Book

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**Machiavelli revisited**, by Joseph V. Femia, 2004

Book

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**Machiavelli**, by Quentin Skinner, 1981

Book

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**Machiavelli: a very short introduction**, by Quentin Skinner, 2000

Book

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**Machiavelli and republicanism**, by Gisela Bock; Quentin Skinner; Maurizio Viroli, 1990

Book

## On Hobbes (5 items)

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**Hobbes: a guide for the perplexed**, by Stephen J. Finn, ©2007

Book

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**Hobbes and the social contract tradition**, by Jean Hampton, 1986

Book

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**Hobbes**, by Aloysius Martinich, 2005

Book

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**Rhetoric and philosophy in Hobbes' Leviathan**, by Raia Prokhovnik, 1991

Book

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**Hobbes**, by Tom Sorell, 1991

Book

## On Locke (5 items)

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**Locke's Two treatises of government**, by Richard Ashcraft, 1987

Book

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**The political thought of John Locke: an historical account of the argument of the 'Two treatises of government'**, by John Dunn, 1969

Book

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**Locke: a very short introduction**, by John Dunn, 2003

Book

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**John Locke**, by Eric Mack, ©2009

Book

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**Locke**, by E. J. Lowe, 2005

Book

## On Rousseau (5 items)

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**Rousseau**, by N. J. H. Dent, 2005

Book

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**The philosophy of Rousseau**, by Ronald Grimsley, 1973

Book

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**Rousseau: an introduction to his political philosophy**, by John C. Hall, 1973

Book

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**Men and citizens: a study of Rousseau's social theory**, by Judith N. Shklar, 1969

Book

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**Rousseau: a guide for the perplexed**, by Matthew Simpson, ©2007

Book

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## On Wollstonecraft (5 items)

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**The Cambridge companion to Mary Wollstonecraft**, by Claudia L. Johnson, 2002

Book

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**Revolutionary feminism: the mind and career of Mary Wollstonecraft**, by Gary Kelly, 1992

Book

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**Mary Wollstonecraft**, by Jane Moore; British Council, 1999

Book

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**Mary Wollstonecraft: a revolutionary life**, by Janet M. Todd, 2000

Book

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**Mary Wollstonecraft and the feminist imagination**, by Barbara Taylor, 2003

Book

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## On Mill (5 items)

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**John Stuart Mill**, by Richard John Halliday, 1976

Book

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**On liberty and liberalism: the case of John Stuart Mill**, by Gertrude Himmelfarb, ©1974

Book

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**John Stuart Mill**, by Dale E. Miller, 2010

Book

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**The improvement of mankind: the social and political thought of John Stuart Mill**, by J. M. Robson, 1968

Book

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**John Stuart Mill and freedom of expression: the genesis of a theory**, by K. C. O'Rourke, 2001

Book

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## Selected texts dealing with themes (14 items)

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### Sovereignty (4 items)

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**Walled states, waning sovereignty**, by Wendy Brown, 2010

Book

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**Sovereignty: evolution of an idea**, by Robert H. Jackson, 2007

Book

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**Sovereignty: history and theory**, by Raia Prokhovnik, ©2008

Book

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**The sleeping sovereign: the invention of modern democracy**, by Richard Tuck, 2016,  
©2015

Book

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## Social Contract (4 items)

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**The social contract from Hobbes to Rawls**, by David Boucher; P. J. Kelly, 1994

Book

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**The racial contract**, by Charles W. Mills, 1999, ©1997

Book | Available as print and eBook

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**The sexual contract**, by Carole Pateman, 1988

Book

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**A theory of freedom: feminism and the social contract**, by Shay Welch, 2012

Book

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## Rights (4 items)

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**Theories of rights**, by Jeremy Waldron, 1984

Book

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**Natural rights theories: their origin and development**, by Richard Tuck, 1979

Book

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**Rights**, by Michael Freeden, 1991

Book

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**Rights talk: the impoverishment of political discourse**, by Mary Ann Glendon, 1991

Book

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## History and context (2 items)

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**The logic of the history of ideas**, by Mark Bevir, 1999

Book

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**Meaning and context: Quentin Skinner and his critics**, by James Tully, ©1988

Book

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## Weekly readings (32 items)

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### Week 1 – Introduction: Authors, Texts, Concepts

No reading required for this week

### Week 2 – Machiavelli (4 items)

Session overview: The lecture will concentrate on Machiavelli's classic texts *The Prince*, and *The Discourses on Livy*, focussing particularly on his understanding of the relationship between politics and morality, his 'realist' approach to political theory, and his concepts of 'virtù' and 'fortuna'.

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Seminar tasks:

close reading and discussion of extracts from *The Prince*. Check Moodle.

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### Week 2 readings (3 items)

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**The Prince, chapters 15, 17, 18, 25**, by Niccolò Machiavelli

[Book](#) | Essential

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**Political thinkers: from Socrates to the present**, edited by David Boucher; P. J. Kelly, 2017

[Book](#) | Chapter 10: Femia, J. 'Machiavelli', pp. 169-190. This is the 3rd edition.

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**Political thinkers: from Socrates to the present**, by David Boucher; P. J. Kelly, 2009

[Book](#) | Chapter 10: Femia, J. 'Machiavelli', pp. 163-184. Follow the link to connect to a scan of this chapter. This is the 2nd edition.

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### Week 3 - Hobbes (3 items)

Session overview: The lecture will focus on Hobbes's *De Cive* and *Leviathan*, and on his ideas about the 'state of nature', the 'social contract', political legitimacy and absolute sovereignty.

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No seminar

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### Week 3 readings (2 items)

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**Leviathan, in The English Works of Thomas Hobbes, vol. 3 (esp. chapters 13 and 16)**, by Thomas Hobbes

[Book](#) | Essential

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**A history of modern political thought: major political thinkers from Hobbes to Marx**, by Iain Hampsher-Monk, 1992

[Book](#) | Chapter: 'Thomas Hobbes', pp 1-67. Follow the link to connect to a scan of this chapter.

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## Week 4 - Locke (4 items)

Session overview: This lecture will examine Locke's version of the 'state of nature' and the 'social contract', focusing especially on his second Treatise of Government, and his ideas about natural rights and the limits of political authority.

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No seminar

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## Week 4 readings (3 items)

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**Two treatises of government**, by John Locke; Peter Laslett, 1988

**Book** | **Essential** | Especially the Second Treatise, Chapters 2-3. Available as print book and eBook.

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**Two treatises of government**, by John Locke; Peter Laslett, 1988

**Book** | Especially the Second Treatise, Chapters 2-3

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**Political thinkers: from Socrates to the present**, edited by David Boucher; P. J. Kelly, 2017

**Book**

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## Week 5 - Mill (3 items)

Session overview: This lecture will introduce the political thought of Mill.

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Discussion of Mill's work.

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## Week 5 readings (2 items)

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**On liberty**, by John Stuart Mill, ©2001

**Book** | **Essential** | Especially Chapter 5. We have 2 e-book versions of this title.

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**Changing Reputations and Interpretations in the History of Political Thought: J.S. Mill - in Politics**, by Geraint Williams, 1995

**Article**

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## Week 6 - Rousseau (4 items)

Session overview: This lecture will give an overview of the political thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

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Rousseau

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## Week 6 readings (1 items)

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**The Social Contract & Discourses, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau (especially Book 1, chapters 6-9 and Book 2, chapter 1), by Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

[Book](#)

**The social contract and other later political writings**, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 2019

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Especially Book 1, chapters 6-9 and Book 2, chapter 1 - follow the link to access a scan of these sections

**Modern political theory from Hobbes to Marx: key debates**, by Jack Lively; Andrew Reeve, 1989

[Book](#) | Chapter: Lively, J. and Reeve, A. 'Jean-Jacques Rousseau', pp. 104-112. Follow the link to connect to a scan of this chapter.

## Week 7 - Summary of the debates so far (5 items)

No new readings - some suggested readings below:

No seminar

## Week 7 readings (4 items)

**Two treatises of government : and a letter concerning toleration**, by John Locke; Ian Shapiro, 2003

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

**Leviathan**, by Thomas Hobbes; Marshall Missner, 2008

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

**On the social contract, with Geneva manuscript and Political economy**, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Roger D. Masters; Judith R. Masters, 1978

[Book](#)

**On the Social Contract**, by Jean-Jacques Rousseau; David Wootton, 2019-03-01

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | This edition not in stock

## Week 8 - Hegel (4 items)

Hegel

Seminar tasks

Check Moodle.

## Week 8 readings (3 items)

**Hegel : a very short introduction (read the whole book - it is small!)**, by Peter Singer, 2001

[Book](#) | **Essential**

**The phenomenology of spirit**, by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel; Peter Fuss; John Dobbins,

2019

**Book**

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**Elements of the philosophy of right**, by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel; Allen W. Wood; H. B. Nisbet, 1991

**Book**

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## Week 9 - Marx (3 items)

Marx

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Seminar tasks

Discussions of lecture and of text extracts. Check Moodle.

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## Week 9 readings (2 items)

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**The Communist manifesto (read the whole manifesto)**, by Karl Marx; Friedrich Engels, 1967

**Book** | Essential

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**Economic and philosophic manuscripts of 1844**, by Karl Marx; Martin Milligan; Dirk J. Struik, 1964

**Book** | Essential

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## Week 10 - Living Political Theory (2 items)

Discussing controversies of classical and contemporary political theory

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Seminar tasks

Discussion of the lecture and the readings. Check Moodle.

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## Week 10 readings (1 items)

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**Axel Honneth : Freedom's Right: The Social Foundations of Democratic Life [Book review]** - in *The Review of Politics*, by Arto Laitinen, 2015

**Article** | Essential