

KEBLE COLLEGE

PREPARATORY READING POLITICS

Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Politics

The first year of the Politics course at Keble consists of the following:

- (a) The **Practice of Politics**, including issues central to democratic governance. Key themes include identifying and defining democracies, party systems, and constitutions.

Recommended readings:

Clark, Golder, Golder *Principles of Comparative Government*
R Dahl *On Democracy*
A Lijphart *Patterns of Democracy*

Additional resources:

A Leftwich *What is Politics? The Activity and Its Study*

- (b) Introduction to **Theory of Politics**, which will include the study of central themes of liberty and democracy alongside the critical examination of the following texts:

Recommended readings:

R Dahl *On Democracy*
J S Mill *On Liberty*
D Miller (ed) *The Liberty Reader*
J J Rousseau *The Social Contract*

Additional Resources:

H Mansfield *A Student's Guide to Political Philosophy*
J Wolff *Introduction to Political Philosophy*
Various [The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

NB: History & Politics students are given the option to take a paper on **Theories of the State** in lieu of Theory of Politics.

Recommended readings for Theories of the State:

Aristotle *Politics*
T Hobbes *Leviathan*
K Marx *The Communist Manifesto*
J J Rousseau *The Social Contract*

Here are reading recommendations not required for courses, but that are recommended to be an engaged student of politics. If you're interested in any further readings, please contact sabrina.martin@keble.ox.ac.uk.

Introductory texts

- J Edkins & M Zehfuss (eds) *Global Politics: A New Introduction*
A Gofas et al. (eds) *The SAGE Handbook of the History, Philosophy and Sociology of International Relations*
A Heywood *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*

On the (British) legacy of colonialism and empire

- Akala *Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire*
F Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth*
A Loomba *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*

On the legacy of colonialism in Oxford and British higher education

- K Bahrmbrä et al. (eds) [*Decolonising the University*](#)
RMF Oxford *Rhodes must fall: the struggle to decolonise the racist heart of empire*

Race and politics

- A Davis *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*
R Eddo-Lodge *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race*

Feminism

- b hooks *Feminism is for Everybody*
A Phillips (ed) *Feminism and Politics*

Religion

- R Aslan *No God but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*
J Fox *An Introduction to Religion and Politics*
N Wolterstorff & R Audi *Religion in the Public Square: The Place of Religious Convictions in Political Debate*

Disability

- E Barnes *The Minority Body: A Theory of Disability*
M Oliver & G Zarb *The Politics of Disability: A New Approach*

Class

- O Jones *Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class*
E O Wright *Understanding Class*

Sustainability

- A Dobson *Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction*
E Ostrom *Governing the Commons*

The future of politics

- I Bartoletti *An Artificial Revolution: On Power, Politics and AI*
S Coleman, et al. (eds) *Handbook of Digital Politics*

