



**College of Humanities & Social Sciences**  
*Department of Political Science*

March 24, 2025

To: Graduate Students in Political Theory  
From: Emily Davis, Alexander Orwin, James Stoner  
Re: POLI 2060 (Introduction to Political Theory)

We have been hoping for some time to agree on a list of books to be taught in POLI 2060 across all sections, and we have reached consensus among ourselves on the following list:

Plato, *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*  
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*  
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *First & Second Discourses*  
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*  
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Going forward, we ask that all of you who teach the course under our mentorship include these books on your syllabus (obviously some will need to be excerpted). Ordinarily we will approve one additional text of your choice.

Our intention is that working from a common syllabus will facilitate conversations among yourselves and among your students, as well as allowing instructors in more advanced political theory classes to know what they can expect students to have read. We mean for this common syllabus to strengthen our curriculum, not dampen your enthusiasm!

Now, we have a new resource for you to consult if you wish as you prepare your class: the online version of POLI 2060 prepared by the three of us. Let us know when you'd like access and we will "enroll" you. I think what you will find most useful are the lectures and the "VoiceThread" discussions among the three of us. Click on a "module" in the left margin and look for the "Resources" under that module; there you will find the lectures and short paragraphs introducing them. Also under each module is a discussion labeled "VoiceThread Discussion." To see the taped conversation among the three of us, begin the assignment, but please do not enter comments of your own. (Bring those to us in person!). You are welcome to adopt our questions and outlines when you teach (some are downloadable), but please do not share these electronically.