Reading List for 2020 Entrants to PPE

The first year's work in PPE does not presuppose prior knowledge or experience with the academic study of philosophy, politics or economics. In particular, having done A Level or the equivalent in the subjects is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage. However, the pace of work is fast, and we expect you to have oriented yourself to the subjects before you arrive, by doing some systematic reading from the lists here.

It will also help you if you begin to think about current affairs in a serious way. We recommend that you explore a range of media sources. News outlets like *The Economist*, *Al Jazeera* and *The New York Times* offer both news coverage and analysis from a variety of perspectives. Similarly, *The Financial Times* is one of the best papers for news. Other sources that focus on more in-depth analysis include *The London Review of Books*, which is a mix of politics and culture, *New Left Review*, *Foreign Affairs* and *Le Monde Diplomatique* (English edition). For a look into the expanding world of data journalism, the website fivethirtyeight.com publishes articles using statistical analysis to report on contemporary politics and economic news.

Philosophy

You will be working in three areas of philosophy during the first year:

- logic,
- ethics, and
- what we call 'knowledge and reality', that is, questions about the nature of reality and how we can claim to know anything about it.

For logic, which you'll study in your first term, we will use

Volker Halbach, *The Logic Manual*, Oxford University Press, 2010.

It is not required but it may be useful to have read the first three chapters of the *Logic Manual* before you get here.

The set text for ethics is: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, which you should certainly try to read.

For a good general introduction to the topics in philosophy we shall discuss in your first year, you might look at:

Thomas Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*
John Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*

If you would like guidance on the more practical aspects of working productively as a philosophy student, you could look at

Saunders, Mossley, MacDonald Ross, Lamb and Closs, *Doing Philosophy: A Practical Guide for Students* (2nd edition, 2013).

Politics

The first-year course is divided into three parts: political theory; empirical political analysis; and quantitative methods.

In Michaelmas Term, you will have tutorials in political theory.

We will study both Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract*, and John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*. Please obtain your own copies of both, and you should read them before the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

You will study empirical political analysis in Hilary and Trinity Terms. The goal is to introduce you to both the methods used, and the findings proposed, in the broad study of 'how politics works' in different countries and over time. Rather than taking individual countries as discrete units for detailed, isolated study, the course is thematic and comparative from the start.

As an introduction, we recommend

A. Lijphart, *Patterns of democracy: Government forms and performance in 36 countries,* 2012.

Also, look through

W.R. Clark, M. Golder, and S. Golder, *Principles of comparative government*, 2009.

You will also have lectures and workshops in quantitative methods for political analysis, organised in the university Department of Politics and International Relations. As an introduction, you should try to look through

P.M. Kellstedt & G.D. Whitten, *The fundamentals of political science research,* 2008.

Economics

The first year course is divided into two main parts: microeconomics and macroeconomics. A good understanding of elementary mathematical methods is essential to an understanding of modern economics, and algebra, simultaneous equations, basic calculus (differentiation) and basic statistics regularly come up throughout the course.

For a general introduction to the sorts of issues that economists try to address, why they matter and how they might be resolved, we would recommend:

Core Econ Textbook: free online introduction to economics found at https://core-econ.org/the-economy/?lang=en
T Harford, *The Undercover Economist*
A Banarjee and E Duflo, *Poor Economics*
D Helm, *The Economic Borders of the State*
A Dixit and B Nalebuff, *Thinking Strategically*
R Thaler, *Misbehaving*

We strongly recommend that those without A Level maths or equivalent put some time in to start moving their maths knowledge forward and to get used to doing maths again after what may have been a two-year break. For those with A Level maths, we would still recommend that they refresh their memory of mathematical methods before arriving in October.

Before term, all students should review the material in Chapters 1 - 4 of the *Maths Workbook* (that can be found at https://abiadams.com/teaching/prelims-micro/). We would recommend trying the exercises throughout the text to test your understanding. Particular questions from the Worksheets at the end of Chapters 1-4 will be set later in the summer.

In addition to the further reading suggestions in the workbook there are many introductory books in this area and it is very much a matter of taste which you use. Our suggestions are:

I Jacques, *Mathematics for Economics and Business*
G Kennedy, *Mathematics for Innumerate Economists*
G Archibald and R Lipsey, *An Introduction to a Mathematical Treatment of Economics*

The Maths Workbook references the Jacques book repeatedly. The Kennedy book is recommended as an amusing and helpful introduction to calculus, and Archibald and Pipsey is designed for people with a maths block.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in October.

Philosophy:	Stephen Mulhall, Volker Halbach
Politics:	Michaela Collord, Elizabeth Fraser, Jonathan Leader-Maynard
Economics:	Dieter Helm, Richard Mash