Political Theory: Rights, Violence, and the Body
Reading List for the Modern Thought and Literature PhD Oral Examination
Adam Rosenblatt

Political Philosophy: Foundations of Rights (Josh Cohen):
Joshua Cohen, “Minimalism about Human Rights: The Most We Can Hope For?”
Ronald Dworkin, Life’s Dominion
HLA Hart, "Natural Rights in Bentham and John Stuart Mill," in Essays on Bentham
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (excerpts)
Michael Ignatieff, Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry plus responses
Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace”
John Locke, Second Treatise on Government
Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract
Amartya Sen, “Elements of a Theory of Human Rights”

Human Rights Debates (Helen Stacy)
Hannah Arendt, “The Nation-State and the Decline of the Rights of Man” (in Totalitarianism)
Talal Asad, “What Do Human Rights Do?: An Anthropological Enquiry”
Ian Balfour and Eduardo Cadava, eds., South Atlantic Quarterly: Special Issue on Human Rights
(essays by Brown, Ranciere, Keenan, and others)
Costas Douzinas and Ronnie Warrington, Justice Miscarried: Ethics, Aesthetics and the Law
(introduction)
Nel Noddings, Caring: A Feminine Approach to Ethics and Moral Education (introductory chapters)
(essays by Rorty and MacKinnon)
Elaine Scarry, “The Difficulty of Imagining Other People”
Michael Oondatje, Anil’s Ghost
Robin L. West, "The Difference in Women's Hedonic Lives: A Phenomenological Critique of Feminist Legal Theory" in At the Boundaries of the Law

Violence and Repair (Debra Satz)
Marguerite Feitlowitz, A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture
James Griffin, “Human Rights: The Philosophical Work Still Undone”
Carla Hesse and Robert Post, eds. Human Rights in Political Transitions: from Gettysburg to Bosnia (excerpts)
Sanford Levinson, ed. Torture: A Collection (essays by Henry Shue, Allen Dershowitz, Elaine Scarry, Michael Walzer, Mark Osiel, and others)
Thomas Nagel, “Death” and “War and Massacres” in Mortal Questions
Avishai Margalit, The Ethics of Memory
Martha Minow et al., Breaking the Cycles of Hatred: Memory, Law, and Repair
Elizabeth Spelman, Repair: The Impulse to Restore in a Fragile World
Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars
Rhetoric and the Body (Living and Dead) (Andrea Lunsford)
Philippe Ariès, *Western Attitudes Toward Death from the Middle Ages to the Present*
Kenneth Burke, *Language as Symbolic Action*, “Definition of Man” and “Terministic Screens”
Nathan Englander, *The Ministry of Special Cases*
Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*
George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language”
Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain*
Laura Tanner, *Lost Bodies: Inhabiting the Borders of Life and Death*