

HSL 751: Critical Readings in Philosophical
Texts
Ist Semester, 2022-23

Arudra Burra
IIT Delhi

Reading packet I

1. John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (revised edition) pp. xvii-xviii and ss. 1-4
2. John Rawls, from *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy*
3. John Rawls: For the Record (interview)

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Reading packet II

1. John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (revised edition) ss. 5 and 6
2. James Rachels, chapters 7 and 8 from *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*

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Reading packet III

1. Michael Young, “Down with Meritocracy,” *The Guardian* 29 June 2001
2. Kwame Anthony Appiah, “The myth of meritocracy: who really gets what they deserve?” *The Guardian* 19 October 2018
3. Aakash Singh Rathore, “Fraternity: Affection for Everyone, Hatred for None,” from *Ambedkar’s Preamble* (optional)

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Reading packet IV

1. John Rawls, “The Idea of the Original Position,” §6 of *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*
2. John Rawls, “The Idea of the Original Position,” from *Political Liberalism*
3. John Rawls, “The Original Position,” chapter III of *A Theory of Justice*

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Reading packet V

1. John Rawls, “Equal Liberty,” chapter IV of *A Theory of Justice*
2. Jacob T. Levy, “Two Hundred Years of the Liberty of the Moderns”
3. Handout on Benjamin Constant, “The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns”
4. Maria Kasmirli, “Tools for thinking: Isaiah Berlin’s two concepts of freedom”
5. Gerald C. MacCallum, Jr., extract from “Negative and Positive Freedom”

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Reading packet VI

1. Nigel Warburton, “Two concepts of Freedom,” from *Freedom: An Introduction with Readings*
2. Handout on MacCallum’s “Negative and Positive Freedom”
3. Benjamin Constant, “The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns”
4. G. A. Cohen, “Freedom and Money”
5. Handout on Cohen, “Freedom and Money”

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Reading packet VII

1. John Rawls, “Distributive Shares,” chapter five of *A Theory of Justice*
2. Samuel Scheffler, “Justice and Desert in Liberal Theory”