



Oxford  
Scholastica  
ACADEMY

---



# EXPERIENCE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, POLITICS & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



## ***READING LIST***

---

# WELCOME

to the Oxford Scholastica

**Experience International Relations,  
Politics & Leadership Academy!**

## Preparing for your classes

Many of our students ask us how they can make the most out of their courses by doing some pre-course preparation, so we've given you some ideas here. Don't worry though – we don't expect you to do all this! We know how busy you are, and the preparation is optional. But if you'd like to make a head start, here are our suggestions...



## Activities to do

---

Make notes about a political leader you particularly admire, explaining what makes this person interesting to focus on. We'll share everyone's thoughts in the first class.

# RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

---

If you would like to get to grips with some of the topics we will be covering during the Academy, the following links will be of interest.

## 1. Talking Politics: History of Ideas - David Runciman.

In this podcast series, David Runciman, head of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge, plots the genesis of the ideas and movements that still define the way we live today. Feel free to dip into any that sound interesting to you!

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/talking-politics-history-of-ideas/id1508992867>

## 2. Game of Thrones Meets International Relations: A Match Made in Heaven? - Matthew Reisener

For fans of the TV show, this is an interesting analysis of the way international politics are portrayed on Game of Thrones.

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/game-thrones-meets-international-relations-match-made-heaven-52007>



## 3. Rational Choice Theory - Britannica

Rational Choice Theory guides almost all political economy and political analysis. This entry, from Encyclopaedia Britannica, is worth reading as it explains the concept well.

<https://www.britannica.com/money/rational-choice-theory>





# BOOKS TO READ

---

Here are some more ideas!

**4. We recommend you get hold of *What is Politics?* by Adrian Leftwich.**

This book clarifies lots of the contexts in which students apply leadership. It gives perspectives on international politics, institutional politics and power outside of the system.

If you're pushed for time, choose two or three chapters out of chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 which are the most relevant.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/What-Politics-Activity-Its-Study/dp/0745630561>

**5. If you'd like to push yourself...**

***In Defense of Anarchism* by Robert Paul Wolff**

This book provides a basis for criticising certain types of leadership and so can be a helpful grounding text for the course. However, it is not crucial you read it to understand any of the course.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Defense-Anarchism-Robert-Paul-Wolff/dp/0520215737>

***The Prince*, Chapter XVII: "Concerning Cruelty and Clemency, and Whether It Is Better to Be Loved Than Feared" by Niccolo Machiavelli.**

*The Prince* is a seminal piece of modern political philosophy, and this is possibly its most famous chapter.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Prince-Penguin-Classics-Niccolo-Machiavelli/dp/0140449159>



If you'd like any more resources, please feel free to ask us!

To explore a full course outline of what you will be studying, please see here.

<https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/oxford-summer-courses/international-relations-summer-school/experience/#outline>

We hope you're as excited as we are to start the course and join us in Oxford!

