“Philosophical Thought Collection”

Neil Beers

Bibliography List

*A great aid to my study of the Latin language. This edition features lessons, practice questions and sightreadings from Cicero's work. In addition there are a number of beautiful illustrations of ancient Rome.*

The second oldest book in my collection contains Cicero's account of the Gallic war. The book is written in Latin with interpretations and commentary in English. I should be able to read this fully after LTN 102.

*This book contains all of the great philosophers works. I acquired this book for PHL 410, taught by Nick Smith, who translated or introduced several of these dialogues.*

*Edited by an illustrious Aristotle scholar, this book contains this philosophers most influential works.*

*This book details Aristotle's views on government and poetry. Another notable scholar, Jowett claims to faithfully translate as close to the original as possible.*

*This title outlines Aristotle's notion of educating the young. I may have to gloss over this book again when I prepare to educate my child one day.*

*Used for an IAH class taught by Nick Smith, this book was written for his son to teach him what is meant by 'virtue'.*

*This classic piece of literature tells of a journey to hell and back. Socrates makes an appearance at one point.*

*The foremost Copernican scholar explains why Copernicus' heliocentric model of the solar system is the true account.*
His works entertained the men and women of ancient Athens as it does modern readers as well. The Clouds, contained within, is a satire written about the father of philosophy, Socrates.

These books by Asimov tells us of the nature of the universe and the matter composing it. One of the most exciting scientific authors, Asimov writes to any audience and whomever may read his books would surely learn from them.

This book attempts to tie together many theories in the fields of physics, astronomy and mathematics to sketch some general principles of the universe.

Boslough provides great explanation to the teachings of one of the best minds around today.

This collection of writings from the men who shaped this nation should be on the reading list of the prospective presidential candidates.

This book expounds the foundations of Machiavelli’s political doctrine. He points out that although considered harsh by many, Machiavelli had considerable influence on rulers after his time.

This book exploring consciousness is one I still have to read.

This is a textbook for a philosophy course but not one I took at MSU, although it serves as a great supplement other courses.

Inspiring thousands of Romans and many more to date, Cicero tells us how to live well.

When I enter the legal profession this shall be my primary textbook to ponder and refer back to. As the document that grants to us our liberties and freedoms, a text like this should be read by all in order for them to become familiar with the rights they are owed.
Written over 150 years ago, I believe that many of De Tocqueville's criticisms and explanations of American culture still hold true. I did an independent study (PLS 495) of this textbook and wrote several interpretive essays for Professor Meltzer at MSU.


This was one of my first books and containing the myths of the ancient Greek gods became my favorite source of bedtime stories.

Another I have yet to read, this book contains a collection of articles on consciousness and the afterlife.

This is a great compilation to aid someone in familiarizing oneself with philosophy.

This book supported Copernicus' heliocentric model of the solar system and introduced the moons of Jupiter. It also condemned Galileo to death by the church, a terrible loss due to man's ignorance.

This book is a delightful tour of ancient Rome, discussing how they lived, entertained themselves and provides the history of the most powerful nation of antiquity.

This book written by notable scholars of ancient Greece gives us a glimpse at the entertainment of that time.

This lays the foundation for our government. Written in a series of newspaper articles, those patriots explained to the nation why a national government would work better than a federation and explained their intentions to make the United States a successful nation. The American political classic.
*Hobbes is a very influential philosopher and first to introduce the notion of the state of nature.*

*These books served to provide the Greeks with a notion as to the nature of their gods, their heroes and their history. Two of the most read books of all time.*

*Hume explains several theories of the nature and origin of the universe in this dialogue. This text drew stern criticism from his fellows for the strength of the arguments contrary to the accepted faith of the day.*

*The oldest book in my collection has beautiful artwork boarding every page. This wonderful story is certainly one of the cornerstones of my collection.*

*This book was used in my PHL 487 (philosophy of mathematics) class taught by Philosophy Chairman Asquith at MSU. Korner does a fine job illustrating a foundation for this abstract science.*

*Used for IAH 221 C (great ages, ancient worlds) along with Nicomachean Ethics, Prof. Nick Smith had us read the poetry from which scholars can learn of Greek practices and other information about their culture and thought.*

*This book was purchased and read during spring break 1999 on tour with MSU’s Rugby Football Club.*

*This text was used by me for PLS 100 (introduction to American National Government) and was looked to by this nation's founders for a basis of government.*

*Lucretius provides us with one of the first attempts to explain the world around us.*

*Mentioned above, this book was dedicated to a king to assist with ideas of how to rule effectively.*
*This edition is translated by the most notable of Nietzsche scholars and is a staple of modern philosophy.*

*It was a flourishing period of philosophy faithfully explicated in this text.*

*Alfred Whitehead North said that all of Western philosophy is just a series of footnotes to Plato. The most widely known of all the philosophers, Plato's teachings have greatly shaped many minds expounding the philosophy of his teacher, Socrates. The Bloom translation of The Republic was used in my PLS 371 (introduction to political philosophy) at MSU. I believe that my teacher, Arthur Meltzer, was instructed by Bloom at Harvard. The PHL 410 (Plato) class at MSU was a course I had to take to learn more about this remarkable thinker.*

*Another of my favorite philosophers and in my opinion one of the best fiction writers. Rand introduces her philosophy, Objectivism, through a brilliant fiction story in Atlas Shrugged. The Fountainhead, another classic by Rand, is one I have not read yet still must add to my collection. The Anthem, at only a bit over 100 pages is a favorite I can read in a day and serves to motivate and lend assurance to my volition.*

*Bair does a fine job explaining the philosophy of this social contract theorist. This text collects a few Rousseau's political essays.*

*I used this text to supplement my study in PHL 487 (philosophy of mathematics) and wrote a final term paper on his 'theory of types.'*

*This another on my must-read list but friends have told me that this book has some critical analysis of his work.*
*This is a great book containing excerpts from different notable authors writing on Socrates. There has been a lot attributed to and revered about that man and this book serves to give Socrates that praise.*

*I have not read this one but the table of contents states that it is about the principles of our empirical knowledge and sensory perceptions. Very interesting to me.*

*Taylor, a well-cited Socrates scholar, provides a history of his life based on the writings of Plato. Along with Spielberg, these texts told me much about the life of the father of philosophy.*

*A telling tale of Greek history and warfare. Socrates is mentioned as serving in the Athenian force.*

*A challenging explication of the theories surrounding consciousness and personal identity.*

*The ultimate supplement to my studies. This book contains a dictionary, thesaurus, synonyms, famous quotes, definitions of scientific and legal terms and much more. It can help me through any paper.*

*This was the text I used for my introductory study of Latin in LTN 101 and 102 and will help me to read Cicero in his native language.*

*Another book to illustrate to me the conditions in Athens when these great minds flourished.*