Theory List: Enlightenment and Its Discontents

Philosophical Origins
Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy (1641)
Pascal, selections from Pensees (1670)
Leibniz, selections from Theodicy and Monadology (1710; 1714)
Spinoza, selections from Ethics and Theological-Political Treatise (1677)
Hume, selections from A Treatise of Human Nature (1740)

“Clearing Up”
Rousseau, Discourse on the Science and the Arts (1750)
Voltaire, Candide (1759)
Kant, selections from Critique of Pure Reason and Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone (1787), “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (~1780s)
Mendelsohn, “On the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (1784)
Hamann, “Metacritique on the Purism of Reason” (1784)
Herder, Another Philosophy of History for the Education of Mankind (1774)

After 1789
Hegel, selections from the Phenomenology of Spirit (1807)
Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling (1843)
Feuerbach, selections from The Essence of Christianity (1841)
Marx, selections from Capital, volume I, selections from The German Ideology (with Engels) (1867; 1845)
Nietzsche, selections from Beyond Good and Evil (1886)
Freud, selections from The Interpretation of Dreams, Civilization and Its Discontents, “The Uncanny” (1900; 1929)

Fascism and the End of Metaphysics
Heidegger, selections from Introduction to Metaphysics, “Letter on Humanism”, “Only a God Can Save Us”: An Interview with Der Spiegel (1935; 1960s)
Schmitt, The Concept of the Political (1932)
Horkheimer and Adorno, The Dialectic of Enlightenment (1947)
Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History”, “Critique of Violence” (1940)
Lyotard, The Post-Modern Condition: A Report on Knowledge (1979)
Deleuze, Logic of Sense (1969)
Blumenberg, selections from The Legitimacy of the Modern Age (1985)

Reason, Ideology, and the Unconscious
Foucault, “What is Enlightenment?”, “What is Critique?”, selections from The Order of Things (1978)
Jameson, selections from The Political Unconscious (1982)
**Enlightenment and Religion: Critiques and Revivals of Reason(s)**
Levinas, selections from *Totality and Infinity*, “Religion for Adults”, (1974)
Sloterdijk, selections from *Critique of Cynical Reason* (1983)
Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* (1990)
Badiou, *Logics of Worlds*, Introduction and Conclusion (“What Is It to Live?”)

Total Primary Texts: 40ish

**Interpretations [Reference use only]**
Gay, *The Enlightenment: An Interpretation*
Berlin, selections from *Against the Current: Essays in the History of Ideas*, including “The Counter-Enlightenment”
Koselleck, *Critique and Crises: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*
Israel, *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity*
Gerrard, *Counter-Enlightenments: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present*