



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science Ph.D. Reading List American Politics

This reading list is designed to help graduate students prepare for the department's doctoral comprehensive examinations in American Politics. This list includes a mix of canonical readings in the field and important recent works, but you should also understand that it is merely the proverbial "tip of the iceberg" in terms of works with which you should be familiar in your quest for a scholarly understanding of issues, methods, and findings in the literature. The list is divided by commonly used subfields, but note that many readings cross over subfields. Your goal in working through these works should be to acquire a critical comprehension of the context of the research, the methodologies used, the findings asserted, and the implications of the research. Moreover, you should develop a synthetic understanding of the readings, that is, the ability to integrate, compare, contrast, weigh, and articulate the findings and relative merits of the readings as they relate to each other.

In addition to the readings on this list, Ph.D. students should be familiar with research appearing in the last several years of the major journals in which American Politics research appears, including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research* and major subfield journals in the various areas of Congress, the Courts, Political Behavior, and Public Policy. Consult with the American Politics faculty for what these journals are.

Political Institutions & Public Policy

Congress

- Aldrich, John. 1994. "Rational Choice Theory and the Study of American Politics." In Dodd and Jilison, eds., *The Dynamics of American Politics: Approaches and Interpretations*. Westview Press (pgs. 208-233).
- Canon, David T. 1999. *Race, Redistricting, and Representation: The Unintended Consequences of Black Majority Districts*. University of Chicago Press.
- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the US House of Representatives*. Cambridge University Press.
- Deering, Christopher, and Steven S. Smith. 1997. *Committees in Congress*. 3d ed. CQ Press. (or most recent edition)
- Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little Brown.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. University of Michigan Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chicago.
- Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Note: the 2004 "second" edition is identical to the original).
- Rohde, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*. University of Chicago Press.
- Sinclair, Barbara. 2007. *Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress* (3d edition). CQ Press.
- Smith, Steven S. 2007. *Party Influence in Congress* (Cambridge University Press).

Courts/Judiciary

- Baum, Lawrence. *The Puzzle of Judicial Behavior* (Michigan 1997)
- Baum, Lawrence. *Judges and Their Audiences: A Perspective on Judicial Behavior* (Princeton 2006)
- Epstein, Lee and Jack Knight. *The Choices Justices Make* (CQ 1997)
- Goldman, Sheldon. *Picking Federal Judges: Lower Court Selection From Roosevelt Through Reagan* (Yale 1997)
- Hansford, Thomas G. and James F. Spriggs, II. *The Politics of Precedent on the U.S. Supreme Court* (Princeton 2006)
- Klein, David. *Making Law in the United States Courts of Appeals* (Cambridge 2002)
- Langer, Laura. *Judicial Review in State Supreme Courts* (SUNY 2002)
- Maltzman, Forrest, James F. Spriggs II, and Paul J. Wahlbeck. *Crafting Law on the Supreme Court: The Collegial Game* (Cambridge 2000)
- Perry, Jr., H. W., *Deciding to Decide: Agenda Setting in the United States Supreme Court* (Harvard 1991)
- Segal, Jeffrey A. and Harold J. Spaeth. *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited* (Cambridge 2002)
- Songer, Donald R., Reginald S. Sheehan, and Susan B. Haire. *Change and Continuity on the U.S. Courts of Appeals* (Michigan 2000)

Bureaucracy

- Carpenter, Daniel P. 2001. *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Princeton University Press.
- Dilulio, J.J. "Government by proxy: A faithful overview." *Harvard Law Review* (March 2003): 1271-1284
- Hays, Samuel. *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency*. Harvard Press (1959)/Antheneum 1974.
- Ingraham, Patricia Wallace. "You Talking to Me? Accountability and the Modern Public Service." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 38 no. 1 (January 2005): 17-21.
- Jones, Bryan D. 2001. *Politics and the Architecture of Choice: Bounded Rationality and Governance*. University of Chicago Press.
- Kettl, Donald F. 1988. *Governing by Proxy*. CQ Press.
- Light, Paul C. 1995. *Thickening Government*. Brookings Institution.
- McCubbins, Matthew D. and Thomas Schwartz. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28: 165-179.
- Miller, Gary J. 2005. "The Political Evolution of Principal-Agent Models." *Annual Review of Political Science*. Vol. 8.
- Moe, Terry M. 1989. "The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure." In John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson, eds, *Can the Government Govern?* Brookings Institution Press.
- Niskanen, William A. 1971. *Bureaucracy and Representative Government*. Chicago: Aldine Atherton.
- O'Toole, Laurence J. and Kenneth J. Meier. "Desperately Seeking Selznick: Cooptation and the Dark Side of Public Management in Networks." *Public Administration Review* 64: 681-93.
- Rosenbloom, David H. "'Whose Bureaucracy is This, Anyway?' Congress' 1946 Answer." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34. No. 4 (Dec 2001).
- Stewart, R.B.. "The Reformation of American Administrative Law." *Harvard Law Review* (June, 1975): 1667-1813.
- Weber, Max. 1968. "Bureaucracy." In Gerth, H.H. and C. Wright Mills (eds). *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Oxford Press: pp. 196-244.
- Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do And Why They Do It*. New York: Basic Books.

Wilson, Woodrow. 1888. "The Study of Administration." *Political Science Quarterly* 2:197-222. [reprinted in the 1941 edition of the journal (56:481-506); and Mosher, Frederick (ed.) 1980. *Basic Literature of American Public Opinion, 1787- 1950.*]

Presidency

Bond, Jon R. and Richard Fleisher. 1990. *The President in the Legislative Arena* (Chicago).

Kernell, Samuel. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership* (most recent edition). CQ Press.

Lewis, David E. 2003. *Presidents and the Politics of Agency Design*. Stanford University Press.

Neustadt, Richard E. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidency*. Free Press.

Peterson, Mark A. 1990. *Legislating Together*. Harvard University Press

Ragsdale, Lyn and John J. Theis, III. 1997. "The Institutionalization of the American Presidency, 1924-92." *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 41, No. 4, pp. 1280-1318.

Skowronek, Stephen. 1997. *The Politics Presidents Make*. Harvard University Press.

Public Policy

Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. University of Chicago Press.

Brewer, Garry D. 1974. "The Policy Sciences Emerge: To Nurture and Structure a Discipline." *Policy Sciences* 5 (3): 239-244.

Derthick, Martha. *Keeping the Compound Republic: Essays on American Federalism*. 2001. Brookings Institution Press.

Erikson, Robert S., Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver. 1983. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Policy and Democracy in the American States*. Cambridge University Press.

Jones, Bryan D. and Frank R. Baumgartner. *The Politics of Attention: How Government Prioritizes Problems*. University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Kingdon, John W. 1995. *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies*. 2d ed. New York: HarperCollins.

Lindblom, Charles E. 1979. "Still Muddling, Not Yet Through." *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 39: pp. 517-526.

Lindblom, Charles E. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through." *Public Administration Review* 19:79-99.

Lowi, Theodore J. 1964. "American Business, Public Policy, Case Studies and Political Theory." *World Politics* 16:677-715.

Ostrom, E., T. Dietz, N. Dolsak, P. C. Stern, S. Stonich and E. U. Weber (eds.) 2002. *The Drama of the Commons*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Paul Sabatier, ed. *Theories of the Policy Process*. 2nd ed. Westview Press, 2007.

Rocheftort, David A. and Roger W. Cobb. 1994. "Problem Definition: An Emerging Perspective." Ch. 1 in Rocheftort, David A. and Roger Cobb. eds. *The Politics of Problem Definition*. University Press of Kansas.

Stigler, George J. 1971. "The Theory of Economic Regulation." *Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science*. 2:3-21.

Stone, Deborah. 2002. *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. WW Norton

Tribe, Laurence H. 1972. "Policy Science: Analysis or Ideology?" *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 2 (1): 66-110.

Walker, Jack. 1966. "The Diffusion of Innovations among the American States," *APSR* 63: 880-899.

Political Behavior

Political Parties

- Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties?* University of Chicago Press.
- Black, Earl, and Merle Black. 2002. *The Rise of Southern Republicans*. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Carmines, Edward G. and James A. Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*. Princeton University Press.
- Epstein, Leon D. 1986. *Political Parties in the American Mold*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Fauntroy, Michael K. 2007. *Republicans and the Black Vote*. New York: Lynne Rienner.
- Fiorina, Morris. 1996. *Divided Government*, 2d ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Green, John C., and Paul H. Herrnson, eds. 2002. *Responsible Partisanship? The Evolution of American Political Parties Since 1950*.
- Key, V.O. 1955. "A Theory of Critical Elections." *Journal of Politics* 17:3-18.
(see also Key, V. O. 1959. "Secular Realignment and the Party System." *Journal of Politics* 21:198-210)
- Layman, Geoffrey. 2001. *The great divide: religious and cultural conflict in American party politics*. Princeton University Press.
- Rapoport, Ronald B., and Walter J. Stone. 2005. *Three's A Crowd: The Dynamic of Third Parties, Ross Perot, and Republican Resurgence*. University of Michigan Press.
- Reichley, A. James. 1992. *The Life of the Parties*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Schlesinger, Joseph A. 1985. "The New American Political Party." *American Political Science Review*, 79 (4, Dec.): 1152-1169.
- George Washington, Farewell Address

Public Opinion

- Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David E. Apter, *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: Free Press
- Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Delli Carpini and Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know about Politics and Why It Matters*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Erikson, McKuen, and Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Glynn, Carroll J., Susan Herbst, Robert Shapiro, Garrett O'Keefe. 2004. *Public Opinion*. New York: Westview.
- Hibbing, John R., and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 2002. *Stealth Democracy: Americans' Beliefs about How Government Should Work*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Iyengar, Shanto, and Donald R. Kinder. 1987. *News That Matters: Television and American Opinion*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Page, Benjamin I. and Robert Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Campaigns & Campaigning

- Arceneaux, Kevin, and David Nickerson. 2009. "Who Is Mobilized to Vote? A Re-Analysis of 11 Field Experiments." *American Journal of Political Science* 53 (January) 1-16.
- Bartels, Larry M. 2006. "Priming and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns." In *Capturing*

- Campaign Effects*, Ed. Henry E. Brady and Richard Johnston (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press).
- Campbell, James E., and James C. Garand. 2000. *Before the Vote: Forecasting American National Elections*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
(See also special issues on forecasting specific elections in various issues of *PS: Political Science and Politics* and *American Politics Quarterly*)
- Campbell, James E. 2008. *The American Campaign U.S. Presidential Campaigns and the National Vote*, 2nd ed. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
- Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. 2000. "The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 94: 653-663.
- (see also Imai, Kosuke 2005. "Do Get-Out-The-Vote Calls Reduce Turnout? The Importance of Statistical Methods for Field Experiments." *American Political Science Review* 99: 283-300.)
- Herrnson, Paul S. *Congressional Elections: Campaigning at Home and in Washington* (CQ Press: most recent edition)
- Jacobson, Gary C. and Samuel Kernell. 1983. *Strategy and Choice in Congressional Elections*, 2d ed. Yale University Press.
- Lau, Richard R., Lee Sigelman, Caroline Heldman and Paul Babbitt. 1999. "The Effects of Negative Political Advertisements: A Meta-Analytic Assessment." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93, No. 4, pp. 851_875.
- Popkin, Samuel. 1991. *The Reasoning Voter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Shaw, Daron. 2006. *The Race to 270: The Electoral College and the Campaign Strategies of 2000 and 2004*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Political Behavior

- Berelson, Bernard R., Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee. 1954. *Voting: A Study of Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign*. University of Chicago Press.
- Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York: John Wiley.
- Desipio, Louis. 1996. *Counting on the Latino vote: Latinos as a new electorate*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Fiorina, Morris. 1981. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. Yale University Press.
- Franklin, Mark N. 2004. *Voter turnout and the dynamics of electoral competition in established democracies since 1945*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Harris, Frederick C. 1999. *Something Within: Religion in African_American Political Activism*. Oxford University Press.
- Leege, David C., Kenneth D. Wald, Brian S. Krueger, and Paul D. Mueller. 2002. *The Politics of Cultural Differences: Social Change and Voter Mobilization Strategies in the Post-New Deal Period*. Princeton University Press.
- McDonald, Michael P. and Samuel L. Popkin. 2001. "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter." *American Political Science Review* Vol. 95, No. 4 (Dec., 2001), pp. 963-974.
- Leighley, Jan E. 2001. *Strength in Numbers: The Political Mobilization of Racial and Ethnic Minorities*. Princeton University Press.
- Lewis-Beck, Michael S., William G. Jacoby, Helmut Norpoth, and Herbert F. Weisberg. *The American Voter Revisited*. Michigan.
- Pitkin, Hannah. 1967. *The Concept of Representation*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Rosenstone, Steven J. and John M. Hansen. 1993. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*. New York: MacMillan.

Tate, Katherine. 1993. *From Protest to Politics: The New Black Voters in American Elections*. Russell Sage Foundation.

Verba, Sidney, and Norman H. Nie. 1972. *Participation in America*. University of Chicago Press.

Verba, Sidney, Kay L. Schlozman and Henry E. Brady, 1995, *Voice and Equality: civic voluntarism in American politics*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Walton, Hanes. 1987. *Invisible Politics: Black political behavior*. Albany: SUNY Press.

Wolfinger, Raymond E. and Steven J. Rosenstone. 1980. *Who Votes?* Yale University Press.

Interest Groups

Baumgartner, Frank R., and Beth L. Leech. 1998 *Basic Interests: The Importance of Groups in Politics and Political Science*. Princeton University Press.

Wilcox, Clyde, and Jeffrey M. Berry. 2008. *The Interest Group Society*, 5th ed. New York: Addison-Wesley-Longman (or most recent edition)

Clark, Peter B. and James Q. Wilson. 1961. "Incentive Systems: A Theory of Organizations." *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 6:129-166.

Kollman, Ken. 1998. *Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group Strategies*. Princeton University Press.

Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Harvard University Press.

Schattschneider, E. E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

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