Department of Political Science Ph.D. Reading List
American Politics
For exams taking place after January 1, 2018

This reading list is designed to help graduate students prepare for the department’s doctoral comprehensive examinations in American Politics. The 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 an appreciation of the context of the research, the methodologies used, the findings asserted, and the implications. 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. The final field on the list, Urban Politics, may generate questions in either the Institutions & Policy or the Behavior component of the exam.

Political Institutions & Public Policy

Congress


**Courts/Judiciary**


**Bureaucracy**


**Presidency**


**Public Policy**


**Political Behavior**

**Political Parties**


George Washington, *Farewell Address*

**Public Opinion**


**Campaigns & Campaigning**


Campbell, James E., and James C. Garand. 2000. *Before the Vote: Forecasting American National Elections*. Sage. (See also special issues on forecasting specific elections in various issues of *PS: Political Science and Politics* and *American Politics Quarterly*).


**Voting Behavior**


Interest Groups


Federalist #9, 10, 51