American Politics: Ph.D. Reading List
revised summer 2005

This list is intended for Ph. D. students taking comprehensive exams in the American Politics field. In compiling the list the American politics faculty have tried to indicate the most important works in the various subfields of American politics, while also giving attention to recent developments. While Ph.D. students should aim to be conversant with most of the core works in each area, they obviously need to be most concerned with mastering the literature in their primary subfield(s). In addition to assimilating these works, Ph. D. students approaching comps **MUST** pay close attention to the last 3-5 years of the major political science journals so that they are fully aware of the most recent scholarship in American politics and its subfields. Important journals are listed (roughly in the order of importance) under the various subfields. Journals followed by an asterisk (*) are particularly important and recent volumes should have been read by all students prior to comprehensive exams. Remember it is critical that candidates for comprehensive exams be acquainted not only with classic works, but also with contemporary issues in the American politics field, and its various subfields.

**The Study and Foundations of American Politics**

**Journals:**
- *American Political Science Review*
- *American Journal of Political Science*
- *Journal of Politics*


**Congress**

**Journals:**  
*Legislative Studies Quarterly*  
*Congress and the Presidency*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Journal of Politics*  
*American Political Science Review*  
*Political Science Quarterly*  
*Political Research Quarterly* (formerly *Western Political Quarterly*)  
*Polity*  
*American Politics Quarterly*


**The Presidency and Bureaucracy**

**Journals:**
- Presidential Studies Quarterly*
- Congress and the Presidency*
- Political Science Quarterly*
- American Political Science Review
- American Journal of Political Science
- Journal of Politics
- Political Research Quarterly
- Polity
- American Politics Quarterly


**The Supreme Court and the Judiciary**

**Journals:**

*Judicature*

*American Political Science Review*

*American Journal of Political Science*
Henry J. Abraham - The Judiciary


Alexander Bickel - The Least Dangerous Branch

Bork, Robert. The Tempting of America (New York: Free Press, 1990), Part II (pp. 133-235).

John Brigham - The Cult of the Court


Caldeira and Wright. 1988. “Organized Interests and Agenda Setting in the US Supreme Court.” APSR 82

Robert A. Carp and C. K. Rowland - Policymaking and Politics in the Federal District Courts

Edwin Corwin - The Doctrine of Judicial Review

Tribe and Dorf - On Reading the Constitution

Lee Epstein and Jack Knight - Choices Justices Make


Gates and Johnson - The American Courts: A Critical Assessment


Hall and Brace. 1996. “Justices’ Responses to Case Facts: An Interactive Model.” *APQ* 24

Hall and Brace. 1989. “Order in the Courts.” *Western Political Quarterly* (now *PRQ*) 42

Donald L. Horowitz - *The Courts and Social Policy*


Ignagni and Meernik. 1994. “Explaining Congressional Attempts to Reverse Supreme Court.” *Political Research Quarterly* 47

Thomas Keck. *The Most Activist Supreme Court*

Ken Kersch. *Constructing Civil Liberties*


Kevin McMahon. *Reconsidering Roosevelt on Race*

Mishler and Sheehan. 1993. “The Supreme Court as a Countermajoritarian Institution.” *APSR* 87 (see also Comment on Mishler and Sheehan *APSR* 88, 1994)

Mitch Pickerill, Constitutional Deliberations in Congress

Rosenberg - The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?


Rebecca Salokar - The Solicitor General - The Politics of Law

Bernard Schwartz - History of the US Supreme Court


Jeffrey Segal and Harold Spaeth - The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model


Slotnik (ed.) - Judicial Politics: Readings from Judicature


Tarr and Porter - State Supreme Courts in State and Nation


George Watson and John Stookey - Shaping America: the Politics of Supreme Court Appointments


Political Parties

American Politics Quarterly

Aldrich, John. *Why Parties?*

APSA Report, Toward A More Responsible Two-Party System

Bibby, John F. Politics, *Parties and Elections in America*

Burnham, Walter Dean. Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics

__________. The Current Crisis in American Politics


Busch, Andrew. Outsiders and Openness in the Presidential Nominating System

Campbell, Angus, et al. *The American Voter*


Downs, Anthony. An Economic Theory of Democracy

Eldersveld, Samuel. *Political Parties: A Behavioral Analysis*

Eldersveld, Samuel, and Hanes Walton, Jr. *Political Parties in American Society*

Epstein, Leon. *Political Parties in Western Democracies*

Green, Donald, et al. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*

Green, John, and Paul Herrnson, eds. *Responsible Partisanship*

Green, John, and Daniel Shea, eds. *The State of the Parties*

Hershey, Marjorie Randon, and Paul Beck. *Party Politics in America*

Key, V.O., Jr. *Politics, Parties, and Pressure Groups*

__________. Southern Politics


__________. 1959. “Secular Realignment.” *Journal of Politics*

Kirkpatrick, Jeane. *Dismantling the Parties*

Ladd, Everett, and Charles Hadley. *Transformations of the American Party System*

Layman, G. *The Great Divide*

Maisel, L. Sandy. *Parties and Elections in America*

Mayer, William. *The Divided Democrats*

Mayhew, David. *Electoral Realignments*

_________. *Placing Parties in American Politics*

McGerr, Michael. *The Decline of Popular Politics*

Milks, Sidney. *The President and the Parties*

Nie, Norman, et al. *The Changing American Voter*

Polsby, Nelson. *Consequences of Party Reform*

Rae, Nicol. *Southern Democrats*

_________. *The Decline and Fall of the Liberal Republicans*

Ranney, Austin. “The Political Parties: Reform and Decline.” in Anthony King (ed.), *The New American Political System*

Reichley, A. James. *The Life of the Parties*

Reiter, Howard L. *Parties and Elections in Corporate America*

Schattschneider, E.E. *The Semi-Sovereign People*

_________. *Party Government*

Shafer, Byron. *Quiet Revolution.*

_________. *Bifurcated Politics*

_________. *The Two Majorities and the Puzzle of Postwar American Politics*

Shafer, Byron, ed. *The End of Realignment.*

_________. *Partisan Approaches to Postwar American Politics.*
Silbey, Joel. *The American Political Nation, 1838-1893*

Sundquist, James. *Dynamics of the Party System*

Ware, Alan. *The Breakdown of Democratic Party Organization: 1940-1980*

Wattenberg, M. *The Decline of American Political Parties*


Wilson, James Q. *The Amateur Democrat*

**Interest Groups**

**Journals:**  
*American Political Science Review*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Journal of Politics*


Ostrom, Elinor, Roy Gardner, and James Walker. *Rules, Games, and Common-Pool Resources*


Scholzman, Kay, and John T. Tierney. *Organized Interests and American Democracy*


**Public Opinion, the Media, and Electoral Behavior**

**Journals:**

*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*Public Opinion Quarterly*
*Political Behavior*
*Political Psychology*
*Journal of Politics*
*Political Research Quarterly*


Berelson, Bernard, Paul Lazarsfeld, and William McPhee. *Voting*

Carmines, Edward, and James A. Stimson. *Issue Evolution*


Fiorina, Morris. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*


Hibbing, John R. and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 1995. *Congress As Public Enemy: Public Attitudes Toward American Political Institutions*

Iyengar, Shanto, and Donald R. Kinder. *News That Matters: Television and American Public Opinion*

Jennings, M. Kent, and Richard Niemi. *The Political Character of Adolescence*

Keith, Bruce. et al. *The Myth of the Independent Voter*


Key, V.O. Jr. *The Responsible Electorate*


Nie, Norman, et al. The Changing American Voter

Niemi, Richard G. et al. The Politics of Future Citizens


Rosenstone and Hansen. Mobilization, Participation and democracy in America


Verba, Sidney, and Norman Nie. Participation in America


**State Politics and Federalism**

Journals: *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*  
*Publius*  
*American Political Science Review*  
*Political Science Quarterly*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Journal of Politics*  
*Legislative Studies Quarterly*


**Women and Politics**

**Journals:**  
*Women & Politics*  
*Politics and Gender*  
*Political Research Quarterly* (formerly *Western Political Quarterly*)  
*American Political Science Review*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Journal of Politics*  
*Legislative Studies Quarterly*


Norris, Pippa. *Women, Media and Politics*


**Public Policy**

**Journals:**

*Policy Studies Review*
*Journal of Public Policy*
*Journal of Politics*
*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*Public Administration Review*


**Urban Politics**


Peter Bachrach & Morton S. Baratz - *Power and Poverty*

Edward Banfield - *The Unheavenly City Revisited*

Edward Banfield & James Q. Wilson - *City Politics*

Amy Bridges - *Morning Glories*

Robert Dahl - *Who Governs?*

Peter Eisinger - *The Rise of the Entrepreneurial State*

Stephen Elkin - *City and Regime in the American Republic*

Stephen P. Eric – *Rainbow’s End*


Nathan Glazer and Daniel Moynihan - *Beyond the Melting Pot* (2nd revised edition, 1990)

Mark Gottdiener - *The Decline of Urban Politics: Political Theory and the Crisis of the Local State*

Rodney Hero - *Latinos and the U.S. Political System*

Floyd Hunter - *Community Power Structure*

Jane Jacobs - *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Bryan Jones - *Governing Urban America*

Dennis R. Judd & Todd Swanstrom - *City Politics: Private Power and Public Policy, 3rd ed.*

Dennis R. Judd & Paul P. Kantor (eds.) - *The Politics of Urban America*

Paul Peterson - *City Limits*

Paul Peterson, *The Price of Federalism.*

Nelson Polsby - *Community Power and Political Theory*

David Ricci - *Community Power and Democratic Theory*

William Riordan - *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*

William Ryan - *Blaming the Victim* (revised ed. 1976)

G. Ross Stephens & Nelson Wikstrom, *Metropolitan Government and Governance*

Clarence Stone - *Regime Politics*

Clarence N. Stone & Heywood T. Sanders (eds.) - *The Politics of Urban Development*

Jon C. Teaford - *The Twentieth Century American City*

Susan Welch & Timothy Bledsoe - *Urban Reform and its Consequences*

William Julius Wilson - *The Truly Disadvantaged*

Raymond Wolfinger - "Why Political Machines Have Not Withered Away and Other Revisionist Thoughts," *Journal of Politics* (1972)

Douglas Yates - *The Ungovernable City*