American Politics Reading List

AMERICAN POLITICS READING LIST
Department of Political Science, Yale University

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This list should not be understood as a canon that must be internalized to provide a foundation in American politics but as a guide to important issues and controversies in the field. Students should draw on their general knowledge of American politics, as well as courses on American Politics and other relevant areas. Starred readings are particularly important, instructive, and/or foundational. Reading this subset of the list is not sufficient, however, for passage of the exam.

American Political Development and Thought

B. Ackerman, We the People, Vol. 1, ch. 1; Vol. 2, chs. 1, 2, 9, and 10

B. Balogh, Government Out of Sight: The Mystery of National Authority in the Nineteenth Century, Ch. 1,2,5,7,9.

R. Bensel, The Political Economy of American Industrialization, chs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7

D. Carpenter, The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy, intro, chs. 1-5, conclusion

R. Dahl, A Preface to Democratic Theory

* Federalist Papers, nos 10, 37, 39, 46-48, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 62, 63, 70, 78

E. Eisenach, The Lost Promise of Progressivism, ch 1,2, 4.

* L. Hartz, The Liberal Tradition in America, chs 1-2

S.P. Huntington, American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony, chs. 1, 2, 5-8


G. Myrdal, An American Dilemma, chs. 1-4, 9

K. Orren & S. Skowronek, The Search for American Political Development, chs. 1, 3, 4

T. Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers, ch. 1 and conclusion


* S. Skowronek, Building a New American State, pp. 1-176


M. Stears, Progressives, Pluralists, and the Problems of the State, chs. 1,2,4,5.


* The U.S. Constitution


G. Wood, Creation of the American Republic, chs. 2-4, 8-10, 13, 15

Legislatures/Congress


* R.D. Arnold, The Logic of Congressional Action, chs. 1-6, 8

S.A. Binder, “The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96,” APSR 93 (1999), 51


G. Cox & M. McCubbins, Setting the Agenda, chs. 2,3,5.

R. Fenno, Jr., Congressmen in Committees, introduction and chs. 1-4

R. Fenno, Jr., Homestyle, chs 1, 2, 7, appendix

L. Fowler and R. McClure, Political Ambition: Who Decides to Run for Congress, intro, chs. 8-9


R. Hall, “Participation and Purpose in Committee Decision Making,” APSR 81 (1987), 105
* K. Krehbiel, Information and Legislative Organization, chs. 1-3
* K. Krehbiel, Pivotal Politics, chs 1-3.

D. Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection
* D. Mayhew, Divided We Govern, all but ch. 2

N. Polsby, “The Institutionalization of the U. S. House of Representatives,” APSR 62 (1968), 144


* E. Schickler, Disjointed Pluralism, chs. 1, 5, 6


**Presidency/Executives**


W. Howell, Power without Persuasion, chs. 1-5

Howell and Pevehouse, While Dangers Gather, 1-4.

C.O. Jones, The Presidency in a Separated System, chs. 1, 8

H.C. Mansfield, Jr., Taming the Prince, chs. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10


* R. Neustadt, Presidential Power, chs. 1-8 (on the Truman & Eisenhower presidencies)

A. Rudalevige, The New Imperial Presidency, chs. 4-7.

* S. Skowronek, The Politics Presidents Make, chs. 1-3

J. Tulis, The Rhetorical Presidency

A. Wildavsky, “The Two Presidencies,” in Wildavsky, Perspectives on the Presidency, 448-61

The Courts


C. Cameron, J.A. Segal & D. Songer, “Strategic Auditing in a Political Hierarchy,” APSR 94 (2000), 101-16


R.S. Melnick, Between the Lines, parts I, III, and V


Bureaucracy/ Public Administration
G. Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” APSR 63 (1969), 689


M. Lipsky, “Toward a Theory of Street-Level Bureaucracy,” in W. Hawley et al., Theoretical Perspectives in Urban Politics


H. Simon, Administrative Behavior, chs. 1, 2, 4, 7

* J.Q. Wilson, Bureaucracy, pp. ix-xii, 31-110, 157-175, 196-217, 348-78


Parties and Elections


J. Aldrich, Why Parties?, chs. 1, 6-7

A. Alesina & H. Rosenthal, Partisan Politics, Divided Government, and the Economy, chs. 3-7


* A. Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy, chs. 1-8

L.D. Epstein, Political Parties in the American Mold, ch. 4


M. Fiorina, Divided Government (1996 ed.)

M. Fiorina, Retrospective Voting in American National Elections, chs. 1, 4, 5, 9


J. Gerring, Party Ideologies in America, ch 1-3, 5


S. Rosenstone & J.M. Hansen, Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America

J. Sundquist, Dynamics of the Party System (1983 ed.), chs. 1-3, 10-end

**Civil Society, Social Movements, Interest Groups, Power**

D. Chong, Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement, chs. 1, 5, 8, 10

* R. Dahl, Who Governs? chs. 1, 8-18

M. Dawson, Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics, Part I, conclusion


J. Gaventa, Power and Powerlessness, pt. 1, ch. 4

V.O. Key, Jr., Southern Politics, chs. 2, 8, 11, 14


K. Luker, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood, pp. 1-9, 92-245

D. McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, chs. 1-3

* M. Olson, The Logic of Collective Action, chs. 1-2, 5-6

R. Putnam, Bowling Alone, chs. 1 -3, 10-15, 21

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

T. Skocpol, Diminished Democracy, chs. 2, 4, 5

John Skrentny, The Minority Rights Revolution, chs. 4-5, 8-9

D.B. Truman, The Governmental Process 2d ed., chs. 1-6, 16

J. Walker, “The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America,” APSR 77 (1983), 390

J.Q. Wilson, Political Organizations, chs. 1-3

**Public Opinion, Party Identification, Attitudes**

B. Berelson et al., Voting, chs. 2-7, 13, 14

* A. Campbell et al., The American Voter (unabridged edition, which has different chapter numbers), chs. 1, 4-7, 13


* R.S. Erikson, M.B. McKuen & J.A. Stimson, The Macro Polity, chs. 1, 3, 4, 7-10

B. Page and R. Shapiro, The Rational Public, chs. 1, 2, 10

M. Gilens, Why Americans Hate Welfare, chs. 3, 5

D. Green, B. Palmquist & E. Schickler, Partisan Hearts and Minds, chs. 1, 2, 8

J. Hochschild, What’s Fair?, chs. 1, 2, 9


J.A. Krosnick & D.R. Kinder, “Altering the Foundations of Support for the President through Priming,” APSR 84 (1990), 497-512


J. Sullivan et al, Political Tolerance and American Democracy, chs. 1-4, 7


**Public Policy**


L. Bartels, Unequal Democracy, ch. 2-6, 9.

F. Baumgartner & B. Jones, Agendas and Instability in American Politics, chs. 4-6


M. Derthick & P. Quirk, The Politics of Deregulation, chs. 1, 3, 7

J. Hacker, The Divided Welfare State, Introduction


* J. Kingdon, Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies (2nd ed), chs 9-10


E. Patashnik, Reforms at Risk, Ch. 1,2,9.

* P. Peterson, City Limits, chs. 1-4, 9


J. Pressman & A. Wildavsky, Implementation, chs. 1-3, 5