Princeton University
Department of Politics

Reading List for Ph.D. General Examination in
THE POLITICS OF THE UNITED STATES
Summer 2009

Students are responsible for the core reading list plus three of the following nine subfield lists (in alphabetical order):

1. American Political Development and Thought
2. Public Opinion and Political Behavior
3. Political Psychology
4. Political Parties and Interest Groups
5. Legislative Politics
6. Presidency
7. Bureaucracy
8. Federal, State and Urban Politics
9. Race, Gender and Inequality

The core reading list consists of major works that every serious student of the American political system should know. Some of the readings provide indispensable historical and institutional perspectives or broad overviews, and some illustrate major theories or methods of analysis that have had significant impacts in a variety of subfields. In addition to this list, it is expected that all students will know the works covered in the American field seminars. Indeed, it is worth emphasizing that while these lists have been put together to provide students with a starting point for studying, the exam is as much about understanding key debates and concepts than about memorizing what a particular set of individuals have said. Thus students should be encouraged to read and grapple with works in addition to those listed.

Each of the subfield reading lists consists of basic works relevant to anyone working or teaching in the subfield. Each list is intended to be roughly equivalent in scope to a one-semester graduate seminar (though not all currently offered seminars are organized around single subfields and not all subfields are represented in the current menu of seminars). Obviously, in addition to these lists, students should obtain the syllabi of any graduate classes on the subject taught during their time at Princeton. Thus if a student selects into Political Psychology, they should be familiar with the syllabus on a graduate (Politics) seminar taught in the subject over the past couple of years. If the student selects into legislative politics and a graduate seminar on American political institutions has been taught, the student should know the works on legislative politics covered in that class.

Subfield readings that also appear in the core list are starred. Students must prepare 3 subfields plus the core list. Students inform the graduate office in advance about the three subfields they will prepare. During the exam, students will have a choice of 1 out of 2 core questions, and 2 out of 3 subfield questions; a subfield question need not be confined to one subfield but may draw on any one, two, or all three of the student’s prepared subfields.

Abbreviations: American Political Science Review: APSR; American Journal of Political Science: AJPS; Journal of Politics: JOP.
Core Reading List

Institutions
Clinton, Josh. “Lawmaking and Roll Calls” (2007). *JOP*

Behavior

**Broad Treatments**


**American Political Development, Thought and Culture**

**American Political Thought and Culture**

Goldman, Eric. *Rendezvous with Destiny* (1952), Chaps. 4-6, 9, 14-15
Miller, James. *Democracy is in the Streets* (1987), Part II.

John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness* (1982), ch. 1
Michael Rogin, *Ronald Reagan, the Movie* (1987), ch. 2-6, 9
Catherine MacKinnon, *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State* (1991), ch. 8
Isaac Kramnick and Theodore J. Lowi, eds., *American Political Thought* (2009) (NOTE that students should know primary sources in American Political Thought, and the Kramnick and Lowi anthology is a useful guide and starting point in identifying canonical authors and works for further reading)

**American Political Development**

Ackerman, Bruce. *We the People* (1991), Vol. 1.
Skocpol, Theda. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers* (1992), Intro., Chaps. 2, 5, 8-9.
Smith, Rogers. *Civic Ideals* (1997), Intro., Chaps. 1, 8, 11.
Richard Bensel, *Yankee Leviathan* (1991), ch. 1, 3-4, 6
Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism* (2001)
Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action was White* (2006)

**Public Opinion and Political Behavior**

NOTE: # = crosslisted with Political Psychology; core noted with *.

**The Nature of Public Opinion**


**Political Socialization, Opinion Formation, and the Mass Media**

Hamilton, James. *All the News That’s Fit to Sell.*

**Political Participation**

Rosenstone, Steven and John Mark Hansen. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy*
in America (1993).

**Elections and Voting Behavior**
Green et al. *Partisan Hearts and Minds.* 2002. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 8. Note: this book is also in the Parties list.
Aggregating Public Opinion and Behavior

Political Psychology
NOTE: # = crosslisted with p.o/behavior; core noted with *

Overviews And Methodological Considerations

Information Processing And Reasoning
Delli Carpini, Michael and Scott Keeter. What Americans Know about Politics and Why it Matters (1996), Chaps. 1,2,4,5, 6.
* Bartels, Unequal Democracy. Chapter 4.

Framing And Mass Communication
Affect

Discussion and Social Dynamics

Group Identity, Consciousness and Conflict

Racial Attitudes
Kinder, Donald and Lynn Sanders. *Divided by Color* (1996), Chaps. 1, 5, 10, Appendixes.

Values

Motivation

Political Parties and Interest Groups

Books
Jane Mansbridge. 1986. Why We Lost the ERA.

Articles


Legislative Institutions Reading List

Books


**Articles**


**The Presidency: Generals Reading List**

**Books**


Articles
Cameron, Charles, Albert Cover, and Jeffrey Segal. "Senate Voting on Supreme Court Nominees: A Neoinstitutional Model," APSR 84 (June 1990), pp. 525-538.
Baum, Matthew and Sam Kernell. 1999. “Has Cable Ended the Golden Age of Presidential Television?” *APSR*.

## Bureaucracy

### Books

### Articles


**Federal, State, and Urban Politics**

**The Federal System**


**State Politics**

Key, V. 0. *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (1949).

**Urban Politics**

**Inequality, Race and Gender**
NOTE: # - crosslisted in other subfields; * = suggested for core.

**Economic Inequality**
Plotke, David Building a Democratic Political Order (1996), Chap. 11.
Marks, Gary and Seymour Martin Lipset. *It Didn't Happen Here: Why Socialism Failed in the United States* (2001)
Gender
Skocpol, Theda. Protecting Soldiers and Mothers (1992).

Race and Ethnicity
Lacewell, Barbershops, Bibles, and BET (2004)
Frymer, Black and Blue (2008)
Jones Correa, Michael, Between Two Nations (1998)
Claire Jean Kim, Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City (Yale U Press, 2000)
Barbara Fields, “Ideology and Race in American History,” in Kousser and McPherson, Race, Region and Reconstruction
David Roediger, Wages of Whiteness (Verso, 1991), chapter 2
W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction
Michael Omi and Howard Winant, Racial Formation in the US, pages 9-91
Ira Katznelson, When Affirmative Action Was White (2005)


