

## **American Politics Comprehensive Examination Reading List**

(as of October 2008)

The American Comp is a take-home exam with forty-eight (48) hours allowed for completion, i.e., if the exam begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, the student has until 10:00 a.m. on Monday to turn in the exam. (an additional ten (10) hours are allowed for non-native speakers of English, giving them until 8:00 p.m. on Monday to turn the exam in.) A maximum of 4800 words is allowed in response to each question.

1. Students must earn a passing grade on all three questions of the American comprehensive exam in order to pass the exam. A failing grade on any of the three comprehensive exam essays necessitates that the student retake the entire exam. The option of writing a literature review when failing one comprehensive exam question is not available for the American comprehensive exam, as it is already an open book exam.
2. Beginning in Fall 2008 all students taking the American Politics comprehensive exam must have completed three graduate seminars in American politics at Notre Dame. The American field Seminar counts as one seminar. The other two seminars may not include directed readings. A maximum of one other course may be fulfilled by transferring credit from another political science graduate program, at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies.
3. In its present form, the exam consists of two parts:

Part One asks general, broad questions that bridge or cross sub-areas of the field. They are designed for generalists in American politics. These questions resemble to some degree those on the "American Democracy" portion of prior exams. Students receive four questions of which they must answer two. Everyone taking the exam receives the same questions.

Part Two is an area of specialization chosen by the student prior to the exam. These may be any of the subject headings on the new reading list (or something similar with approval).

Everyone choosing the same area of specialization receives the same questions. There are two questions of which students must answer one. These questions will resemble those that have appeared on prior exams under the rubric of Institutions, Public Law, etc.

4. Effective January 2009, the American comp is graded using a committee of faculty members, which will change for every administration of the comp. There will be a general committee to compose and grade each American comp.

If you have further questions, please contact the American field chair.

### **American Reading List** *(Revised 3/15/05)*

#### **Democratic Theory**

- Madison, Federalist 10, 51
- Dahl, Preface to Democratic Theory
- Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy (Introduction and part IV only)
- Machperson, Life and Times of Liberal Democracy

- Dahl, Democracy and its Critics
- Lindbloom, "The Market as Prison" Journal of Politics 1982
- Held, Models of Democracy 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1997) (chapters 1-8)
- Riker, Liberalism Against Populism
- Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy
- Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy

### **Political Parties**

- Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy (1957), esp. chs. 2, 7-8
- Aldrich, Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Party Politics in America (1996)
- Carmines and Stimson, 1986 "On the Structure and Sequence of Issue Evolution" APSR 80:901-920
- Mayhew, Electoral Realignment: A Critique of an American Genre (2002)
- Erickson, MacKuen, and Stimson, The Macro Polity (2002), chs. 4 and 5
- Green, Palmquist, and Schickler, Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters (2002)
- Bartels, "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996," AJPS (2000)

### **Interest Groups**

- Baumgartner and Leech, Basic Interests: The Importance of Groups in Politics and Political Science (1998)
- E.E. Schattschneider, The Semi-Sovereign People (1960)
- Theodore Lowi, The End of Liberalism, Second Edition (1979)
- Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action (1965)
- Scholzman and Tierney, Organized Interests and American Democracy (1986)

### **Mass Behavior and Public Opinion**

- Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." in Ideology and Discontent. ed. David Apter. NY: Free Press.
- Campbell et al. 1960. The American Voter (abbreviated edition). New York: Wiley.
- Zaller, John. 1992. The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Niemi, Richard, and Herbert F. Weisberg (eds). 1993. Controversies in Voting Behavior, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Washington: CQ Press.
- Niemi, Richard, and Herbert F. Weisberg (eds). 2001. Controversies in Voting Behavior, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington: CQ Press.
- Jacobson, Gary C. 2001. The Politics of Congressional Elections. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: Longman Press.

### **General and Miscellaneous**

Note: Students should also be familiar with current debates and articles within the leading

journals (in particular, APSR, AJPS, JOP).

- Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Bendor, Jonathan, Terry M. Moe, and Kenneth Shotts. 2001. "Recycling the Garbage Can: An Assessment of the Research Program." *American Political Science Review* 95:169-90.
- Chubb, John E. and Terry M. Moe. 1990. *Politics, Markets, and America's Schools*. Washington, DC: Brookings, chp. 1 (on new institutionalism only).
- Burns, Nancy, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Sidney Verba. 2001. *The Private Roots of Public Action*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Delli Carpini, Michael and Scott Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know about Politics and Why it Matters*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Esping-Andersen. 1990. *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (chp. 1-5)
- Green, Donald P., and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory: A Critique of Applications in Political Science*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Key, Southern *Politics in State and Nation* (1949).
- Lupia, Arthur, and Mathew McCubbins. 1998. *The Democratic Dilemma: Can Citizens Learn What They Need to Know?* New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Morone, James A. 1990. *The Democratic Wish: Popular Participation and the Limits of American Government*. New York: Basic Books.
- Pierson, Paul. 2000. Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics. *American Political Science Review* 94 (June): 251-268.
- Putnam, Robert. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

### **State/Urban**

- Robert Dahl, *Who Governs*.
- Robert S. Erikson, Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver, *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States, 1993* (Cambridge University Press).
- Rodney E. Hero, *Faces of Inequality: Social Diversity in American Politics* (1998 Oxford University Press).
- John Pelissero, *Cities, Politics, and Policy: A Comparative Analysis* (2003, Congressional Quarterly Press).

### **Congress**

#### **Books**

- Mayhew, David R. *Congress: The Electoral Connection* (1974).
- Fenno, Jr., Richard F. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts* (1978).
- Mayhew, David R. *Divided We Govern: Party Control, Lawmaking, and Investigations, 1946-1990* (1991).
- Krehbiel, Keith *Information and Legislative Organization* (1991).
- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins, *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government*

in the House (1993).

- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal, *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting* (1997).
- Krehbiel, Keith *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking* (1998).

### **Articles**

- Polsby, Nelson W. "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 62, No. 1. (Mar., 1968), pp. 144-168.
- Hall, Richard L. and Frank W. Wayman, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 84, No. 3. (Sep., 1990), pp. 797-820.
- Bartels, Larry M. "Constituency Opinion and Congressional Policy Making: The Reagan Defense Build Up," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 85, No. 2. (Jun., 1991), pp. 457-474.
- Austen-Smith, David and John R. Wright (and subsequent exchange with Baumgartner and Leech in *AJPS*), "Counteractive Lobbying," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 38, No. 1. (Feb., 1994), pp. 25-44.
- Schickler, Eric and Andrew Rich (and subsequent exchange with Cox McCubbins), "Controlling the Floor: Parties as Procedural Coalitions in the House," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 41, No. 4. (Oct., 1997), pp. 1340-1375.
- Snyder, Jr. James M and Tim Groseclose (and subsequent exchange with McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal in *APSR*), "Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll-Call Voting," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 2. (Apr., 2000), pp. 193-211.

### **Presidential Politics**

- Jon Bond and Richard Fleisher, *The President in the Legislative Arena*
- Charles Cameron, *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*
- James Ceaser, *Presidential Selection*
- William Howell, *Power Without Persuasion*
- Sidney Milkis, *The President and the Parties*
- Terry Moe, "The Politicized Presidency," in John Chubb and Paul Peterson, *The New Direction in American Politics*
- Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power* (1991)
- Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make*
- Jeffrey Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency*

### **Race and Ethnicity**

- Donald Kinder and Lynn Sanders, *Divided By Color: Racial Politics and Democratic Ideals* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- Michael Dawson, *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African American Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994).

- Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999).
- Katherine Tate, *Black Faces in the Mirror: African Americans and their Representatives in the U.S. Congress* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003).
- Phillip Klinker and Rogers Smith, *The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999).

### **Public Law List**

The American Founding and the Constitution

- Martin Diamond, *The Founding of the Democratic Republic* (1981)

### **Judicial Review and Democracy**

- John Hart Ely, *Democracy and Distrust* (1980)
- Ronald Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously* (1977), chapter 5
- Alexander Bickel, *The Least Dangerous Branch*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1986)

### **Supreme Court as Institutional Actor**

- Louis Fischer and Neal Devins, *The Political Dynamics of Constitutional Law* (2001)
- Robert McCloskey and Sanford Levinson, *The American Supreme Court*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2004)
- David O'Brien, *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000)

### **Internal Politics of the Supreme Court**

- Walter Murphy, *Elements of Judicial Strategy*
- Jeffrey Segal and Harold Spaeth, *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited* (2002)

### **Constitutional Interpretation**

- John Garvey, T. Alexander Aleinikoff, and Daniel Farber, *Modern Constitutional Theory: A Reader*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (2004)
- Michael Moore, "A Natural Law Theory of Interpretation," 58 *Southern California Law Review* 277 (1985).

### **Cases in American Constitutional Law**

- Marbury v. Madison (1803)
- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
- Dred Scott v. Sandford (1856)
- The Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)
- Civil Rights Cases (1883)
- Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

- *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
- *Adamson v. California* (1947)
- *Lochner v. New York* (1905)
- *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)
- *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
- *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992)
- *West Coast Hotel v. Parrish* (1937)
- *NLRB v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation* (1937)
- *Wickard v. Filburn* (1942)
- *United States v. Lopez* (1995)
- *United States v. Morrison* (2000)
- *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* (1952)
- *Morrison v. Olson* (1988)
- *Ex Parte Milligan* (1860)
- *Ex Parte Quirin* (1942)
- *Hamdi* (2004)
- *Schenck v. United States* (1919)
- *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969)
- *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964)
- *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947)
- *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971)
- *Sherbert v. Verner* (1963)
- *Employment Division v. Smith* (1990)
- *Boerne v. Flores* (1997)