

PLSC: 30300. Survey of American Politics. Winter 2016.
Eric Oliver (eoliver@uchicago.edu) Wednesday 9:30-12:20,
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 - 3.

This seminar is an overview of key topics in the study of American politics and is designed to help graduate students prepare for the American Politics Comprehensive Exam.

Students are expected to arrive in class prepared to offer opinions on all materials listed as required for that week. In addition to this, I have added a set of recommended readings which add additional depth and framing to the topic and are relevant for the successful completion of the comprehensive exam. As part of the classroom dialog, we will offer additional depth on the other non-bolded materials and provide framing and further questions for discussion, but the primary burden for digesting the material will be on the class participants – the expectation is that you will have read all the required materials extremely carefully before each class.

Each week students are expected to write a *4 page response paper* to a crucial aspect of the readings. We will send out sample questions the week before to give you ideas for essay topics. This practice will prepare you to successfully complete the various sections of the qualifying exam. No late work will be accepted, but you will be permitted to skip one week's assignment (or the lowest grade will be dropped). A final exam will directly simulate the experience of taking the American politics qualifying exam. Exams will be handed out at the end of class on March (TBD) and must be returned no later than 5 PM on Friday, March (TBD). Be sure to check your schedules to avoid any conflicts with your final exam.

The Reading Material: Underlined books have been placed on reserve at the library and ordered at the Co-op. All other materials can be accessed via Google scholar and the library.

WEEK ONE (January 8): American Political Culture and Development

Required:

- **Lipset, S. M. 1996. *American Exceptionalism*. Chapters 1-6.**
- **Hamilton, Madison, and Jay. 1788. *Federalist Papers*. 10, 51.**
- **L. Hartz. 1955. *The Liberal Tradition in America*. Chapter 1.**
- **de Tocqueville. 1835. *Democracy in America*. Volume 1: Part II(Chap. 9), Volume 2: Part 1(Chaps 1-2), Part 2 (Chaps 4-8) .**
- **R. Smith, 1993. "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America" *American Political Science Review* 87:549-66**
- **J. Morone, 1996. "The Struggle for American Culture" *PS:Political Science and Politics*.**
- **Orren, Karen and Stephen Skowronek. 2002. "The Study of American Political Development." From *Political Science: the State of the Discipline*.**

Recommended:

- W. Wilson. 1887. "The Problem of Public Administration"
- The U.S. Constitution. 1778
- P. Bacharach and M. Baratz. 1963. *Two faces of Power*
- Walker. 1966. "A Critique of Elitist Theories of Democracy," in APSR
- Bailyn. 1967. *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*

- S. Huntington. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*
- R. Hofstadter. 1969. *The Idea of a Party System*
- E. E. Schattsneider. 1975. *The Semi-sovereign People*
- R. Hofstadter. 1974. *The American Political Tradition*
- T. Lowi. 1979. *The End of Liberalism*
- J. Gaventa. 1980. *Power and Powerlessness*
- S. Skowronek. 1982. *Building a New American State*
- E. Foner. 1984. *Why is there no Socialism in the U.S?*
- R. Bense. 1990. *Yankee Leviathan*
- T. Skocpol. 1992. *Protecting Mothers and Soldiers*
- R. Smith. 1997. *Civic Ideals*
- R. Bense. 2000. *The Political Economy of American Industrialization*

WEEK TWO (January 15): Federalism, State, and Local Politics

Required:

- **Judge, David. 1995. "Pluralism" from *Theories of Urban Politics*.**
- **Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limits*. Chapter 1.**
- **Logan, John et al. 1997. "The Character and Consequence of Growth Regimes." *Urban Affairs Review*.**
- **Stone, Clarence. 2008. "Urban Regimes and the Capacity to Govern." *Journal of Urban Affairs*.**
- **Oliver, J. Eric. 2012. *Local Voting and the Politics of Small Scale Democracy*. Chapters 1,6.**
- **Peterson, Paul. 1995. *The Price of Federalism*.**

Recommended:

- Christopher Berry. 2009. *Imperfect Union: Representation and Taxation in Multi-Level Governments*. Cambridge University Press.
- R. Dahl. 2005. *Who Governs?*
- J. Mollenkopf. 1983. *The Contested City*
- C. Stone. 1989. *Regime Politics*
- R. Bailey. 1999. *Gay Politics, Urban Politics: Identity and Economics in the Urban Setting*
- F. Piven. 1974. "The Urban Crisis: Who Got What and Why," in *The Politics of Turmoil* R. Cloward and F. Piven (eds.)
- Katznelson. 1981. *City Trenches*
- John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch. 2007. *Urban Fortunes*
- Oliver, J. Eric. 2001. *Democracy in Suburbia*.

WEEK THREE (January 22): Political Participation

Required:

- **M. Olson. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Chapter 1.**
- **Sidney Verba, Kay Schlozman, and Henry Brady. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *The American Political Science Review*.**
- **Putnam, Robert. 1993. "Bowling Alone" *Journal of Democracy*.**
- **Lewis-Beck, Michael et al. *The American Voter Revisted*. 2008. Chapter 5.**
- **Gerber, Alan et al. 2008. "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review*.**
- **Highton, Benjamin and Raymond Wolfinger. 2001. "The Political Implications of Higher Turnout." *British Journal of Political Science*.**
- **Hajnal, Zoltan and Jessica Trounstine. 2005. "Where Turnout Matters." *Journal of Politics*.**
- **Rosenstone, Steven and Mark Hansen. 1993. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*. Chaps 1-2.**
- **Oliver, J. Eric. 2012. *Local Elections and the Politics of Small Scale Democracy*, Chapters 2,3.**
- **E. E. Schattschneider. 1975. *The Semi-Sovereign People*. Chapter 1.**
- **M. McDonald and S. Popkin. 2001. "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter," *American Political Science Review***

Recommended:

- **Raymond E. Wolfinger and Steven J. Rosenstone. 1980. *Who Votes***
- **Richard G. Niemi and Herbert F. Weisberg. 2001. *Controversies in Voting Behavior***
- **J.W. Prothro and C. M. Grigg. 1960. "Fundamental Principles of Democracy: Bases of Agreement and Disagreement." *Journal of Politics*. 22(2). PP. 276-294**
- **R. E. Lane. 1962. *Political Ideology: Why the Common Man Believes What He Does***
- **D. Stokes. 1963. *Spatial Models of Party Competition***
- **G. Kramer. 1971. "Short Term fluctuation in US voting behavior 1896-1964"**
- **S. Verba, N. Nie, I. Kim. 1978. *Participation and Political Equality***
- **W. Flanigan and N. Zingale. 1991. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate***
- **S. Verba, Schlozman, Brady. 1995. *Voice and Equality***
- **Donald Green and Alan Gerber. 2004. *Get out the Vote! How to Increase Voter Turnout*.**

WEEK FOUR (January 29): American Public Opinion

Required:

- **Converse, Philip. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics" in D. Apter, *Ideology and Discontent***

- Achen, Chris. 1975. "Mass Political Attitudes and the Survey Response." *The American Political Science Review*.
- Feldman, Stanley. 1981. "Structure and Consistency in Public Opinion: The Role of Core Beliefs and Values." *American Journal of Political Science*
- Brady, Sniderman, and Tetlock. 1991. *Reasoning and Choice*, Chaps 1-2.
- Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*

Recommended:

- R. M. Alvarez and J. Brehm. 2002. *Hard Choices, Easy Answers*
- W. Lippmann. 1922. *Public Opinion*
- R. E. Lane. 1962. *Political Ideology: Why the Common Man Believes What He Does*
- D. Stokes. 1963. *Spatial Models of Party Competition*
- M. Olson. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*
- S. Verba, N. Nie, I. Kim. 1978. *Participation and Political Equality*
- J. Hoschild. 1981. *What's Fair?*
- J. Sullivan, Pierson, and G. Markus. 1982. *Political Tolerance in American Democracy*
- H. McClosky. 1983. *Dimensions of Tolerance*
- H. McClosky and Zaller. 1984. *American Ethos*
- Carmines & Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race & Transformation of American Politics*
- E. Carmines and J. Kuklinski. 1990. "Incentives, Opportunities and the Logic of Public Opinion in American Political Representation," in J.A. Ferejohn and J. Kuklinski, eds., *Information and Democratic Processes*
- S. Iyengar. 1991. *Is Anyone Responsible?*
- L. Danielian and B. Page. 1994. "The Heavenly Chorus: Interest Group Voices on TV," in *AJPS*
- Lupia and McCubbins. 1998. *The Democratic Dilemma: Can Citizens Learn What They Need to Know?*

WEEK FIVE (February 5): Vote Choice

Required:

- Lewis-Beck, Michael et al. *The American Voter Revisted*. 2008.
- Downs, Anthony. 1966. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chaps 3,7,8.
- Bartels, Larry. 2001. *Presidential Vote Models: A Recount*," in *PS*.
- M. Fiorina. 1981. "Retrospective Voting in American National Elections," in *American Political Science Review*
- D. Green, B. Palmquist, and E. Schickler. 2004. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*, Chapters 2, 3 and 4
- Oliver, J. Eric. 2012. *Local Elections and the Politics of Small Scale Democracy*, Chapters 4,5.

Recommended:

- Robert S. Erikson, Michael B. MacKuen, and James A. Stimson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation", *The American Political Science Review*.
- S. Popkin. 1991. *The Reasoning Voter*
- W. Flanigan and N. Zingale. 1991. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*
- P. Sniderman, et al. 1991. *Reasoning and Choice*
- M. Mackuen, R. Erikson, and J. Stimson. 1992. "Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the US Economy,"
- J. Brehm 1993. *The Phantom Respondents*
- Gelman and G. King. 1993. "Why are American Presidential Campaign Polls so Variable when Votes are so Predictable," in *BJPS*
- Campbell, Converse, Miller and Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*
- J.W. Prothro and C. M. Grigg. 1960. "Fundamental Principles of Democracy: Bases of Agreement and Disagreement." *Journal of Politics*. 22(2). PP. 276-294
- Sears, et. al. 1980. "Self-Interest vs. Symbolic Politics in Policy Attitudes and Voting."
- M. Fiorina. 1981. "Economic Retrospective Voting, Voter Rationality, and Electoral Accountability," in *AJPS*
- D. Kinder and Kiewiet. 1981. "Sociotropic Politics: An American Case," in *BJPS*

WEEK SIX (February 12): Class & Race Politics

Required:

- **Hacker, Jacob. 2002. *The Divided Welfare State*.**
- **Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. *Racial formation in the United States*. Routledge, 2014.**
- Eric Oliver, J., and Janelle Wong. "Intergroup prejudice in multiethnic settings." *American Journal of Political Science* 47, no. 4 (2003): 567-582.
- Bobo, Lawrence and Vincent L. Hutchings. 1996. "Perceptions of Racial Group Competition: Extending Blumer's Theory of Group Position to a Multiracial Social Context." *American Sociological Review* 61:951-72.

Recommended:

- Bartels, Larry. 2008. *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*.
- Gilens, Martin, 2012. *Affluence and Influence*.
- W. Wilson. 1980. *The Declining Significance of Race*
- b. hooks. 1984. *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center*
- D. Massey and N. Denton. 1988. "Residential Segregation of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians by Socioeconomic Status and Generation," *Social Science Quarterly*
- L. Bobo. 1988. "Group Conflict, Prejudice, and the Paradox of Contemporary Racial Attitudes," in *Eliminating Racism* P. Katz and D. Taylor (eds.)

- D. Sears. 1988. "Symbolic Racism," in *Eliminating Racism* P. Katz and D. Taylor (eds.)
- W. Wilson. 1990. *The Truly Disadvantaged*
- B. Cain, R. Kiewiet and C. Uhlaner 1991. "The Acquisition of Partisanship by Latinos and Asian Americans" in *AJPS*
- D. Roediger. 1991. *The Wages of Whiteness*
- P. Sniderman, T. Piazza, P. Tetlock and A. Kendrick. 1991. "The New Racism." *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 423-47
- K. Tate. 1993. *From Protest to Politics*
- P. Sniderman and T. Piazza. 1993. *The Scar of Race*
- S. M. Okin. 1994. "Gender Inequality and Cultural Differences," in *Political Theory*
- R. Omi and H. Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*
- K. Crenshaw. 1995. "Mapping the Margins of Intersectionality" in *Critical Race Theory: Women, Race, and Class*.
- Phyllis A. Katz and Dalmas A. Taylor. 1988. *Eliminating Racism*
- Martin Gilens. 2000. *Why Americans Hate Welfare*
- J. Hirsch. 1996. *Facing Up to the American Dream*
- D. Kinder and L. Sanders. 1996. *Divided by Color*
- C. Mills. 1997. *The Racial Contract*
- D. Roberts. 1997. *Killing the Black Body*
- Schuman, Howard, Charlotte Steeh and Lawrence Bobo. 1985. *Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- P. Hill Collins. 1998. *Fighting Words*
- C. Gay and K. Tate. 1998. "Double Bound: The Impact of Gender and Race on the Politics of Black Women," in *Political Psychology*
- L. Bobo. 2000. "Racial Attitudes and Relations at the Close of the 20th Century" in *American Becoming*, Smelsner, Niel, Wilson, and Mitchell (eds.)
- P. Gilroy. 2000. *Against Race*
- C. Kim. 2000. *Bitter Fruit*
- M. Nobles. 2000. *Shades of Citizenship: Race and the Census in Modern Politics*
- E.J. Oliver and T. Mendelberg. 2000. "Reconsidering the Environmental Determinants of Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 574-589
- N. Burns, K. Schlozman and S. Verba. 2001. *The Private Roots of Public Action*
- M. Dawson. 2001. *Black Visions*
- G. Loury. 2001. *The Reality of Racial Inequality*
- T. Mendelberg. 2001. *The Race Card*

WEEK SEVEN (February 19): CONGRESS

Required:

- **D. Mayhew. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection, 2nd edition***
- **D. Arnold. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action, Chaps. 3-4.***
- **K. Kreihbel. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization, Chap 3-5***

Recommended:

- M. Fiorina. 1974. *Representatives, Roll Calls, and Constituencies*
- R. Fenno. 1978. *Home Style*
- R. Hall. 1987. "Participation and Purpose in Committee Decision Making," in *APSR*
- K.T.Poole and H. Rosenthal. 1991. "Patterns of Congressional Voting," in *AJPS*
- K. Krehbel. 1995. "Cosponsors and Wafflers from A to Z," in *AJPS*
- R. Erikson and G. Wright. 1997. "Voters, Candidates, and Issues in Congressional Elections" in *Congress Reconsidered*, C. Dodd and B. Oppenheimer (eds.)
- T. Groseclose and D. C. King. 2001. "Committee Theories Reconsidered," in *Congress Reconsidered* (7th edition)
- N. Polsby. 1968. "The Institutionalization of the House of Representatives," in *APSR*
- R. Fenno. 1973. *Congressman and Committees*
- D. Rohde and k. Shepsle. 1975. "Democratic Committee Assignments on the House of Representatives," in *APSR*
- B. Weingast and W. Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress," in *Journal of Political Economy*
- J. Kingdon. 1989. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*
- R. Hall and F. Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees," in *APSR*
- D. Rhode. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*
- R. Kiewiet and M. McCubbins. 1996. *The Logic of Delegation*
- J. Box-Steffensmeier, L. Arnold, C. Zorn. 1997. "The Strategic Timing of Position Taking in Congress," in *APSR*
- K. Krehbiel. 1998. *Pivotal Politics*
- E. Shickler. 2001. *Disjointed Pluralism*

WEEK EIGHT (February 26): CONGRESSIONAL PARTIES

Required:

- **K.T.Poole and H. Rosenthal. 1991. "Patterns of Congressional Voting," in *AJPS***
- **Gary W. Cox and Matthew D. McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan***

Recommended:

- E.E. Schattschneider. 1942. *Party Government*
- W. D. Burnham. 1965. *The Changing Shape of the American Political Universe*
- V.O. Key. 1966. *The Responsible Electorate*, New York: Vintage Press.
- R. Hofstadter. 1969. *The Idea of a Party System*
- M. Fiorina. 1980. "The Decline in Collective Responsibility in American Politics" in *Daedalus*, 109; 25-45
- D. Stokes. 1983. "Spatial Models of Party Competition," in APSR
- J. Sundquist. 1983. Dynamics of the Party System
- Rosenstone, Behr, and Lazarus. 1984 (2nd ed. 1996). *Third Parties in America*
- J. Shlesinger. 1984. "On the Theory of Party Organization."
- G. Rabinowitz and S. MacDonald. 1989. "A Theory of Directional Voting," *American Political Science Review*, 83
- D. Mayhew. 1991. *Divided We Govern*
- Barbara Sinclair, "Do Parties Matter?," CSDP
- V.O. Key. 1964. *Politics, Parties, and Pressure Groups*
- L. Bartels. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996," in *AJPS*
- J. Gerring. 2001. *Party Ideologies in America*
- Robert S. Erikson, Michael B. MacKuen, and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*

WEEK NINE (March 5): The Presidency

Required:

- **Cameron. 2000. Veto Bargaining, Chapt 4**
- **William G. Howell. 2003. *Power without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action*. Princeton University Press.**

Recommended:

- R. Neustadt. 1960. *Presidential Power*
- Graham. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," in APSR
- Wildavsky. 1969. "The Two Presidencies," in *The Presidency*, A. Wildavsky (ed.)
- J. Barber. 1972. *The Presidential Character*
- T. Moe. 1985. "The Politicized Presidency," in *The New Direction in American Politics* J. Chubb and P. Peterson (eds.)
- T. Lowi. 1985. "Presidential Power: Restoring the Balance," in *Political Science Quarterly*, 100, 2: 185-213.
- T. Lowi. 1985. *The Personal President*
- J. Tulis. 1987. *The Rhetorical President*.
- S. Hess. 1988. *Organizing the Presidency*
- J. Bond and R. Fleisher. 1990. The President in the Legislative Arena
- H. Hecla. 1990. "Issue Networks in the Executive Establishment," in *The New American Political System* A. King (ed.)
- T. Sullivan. 1990. "Bargaining with the President," in APSR

- H.C. Mansfield. 1993. *Taming the Prince*
- S. Kernell. 1993. *Going Public*
- C.O. Jones. 1994. *The Presidency in a Separated System*
- R. Kiewiet and M. McCubbins. 1994. Presidential Influence on Congressional Appropriations Decisions
- S. Skowronek. 1997. *The Politics Presidents Make*
- T.Moe and W.G. Howell. 1999. "The Presidential Power of Unilateral Action," in *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*
- Brandice Canes-Wrone. 2005. *Who Leads Whom?, Chapt 5-7.*

WEEK TEN (March 12): Bureaucracy

Required:

- **J. Brehm and S. Gates. 1999. *Working, Shirking, and Sabotage. Chaps 3,4.***
- **Wilson, James O. 1991. *Bureaucracy.***
- **McCubbins, R. Noll, and B. Weingast. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3 (1987)**
- **Oliver, J. Eric. 2006. *Fat Politics. Chapter 1.***

Recommended:

- M. McCubbins and T. Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked," *AJPS*
- T. Moe. 1984. "The New Economics of Organizations," in *AJPS*
- D. Wood and R. Waterman. 1991. "The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy," in *APSR*
- McCubbins, R. Noll, and B. Weingast. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3 (1987)
- Daniel P. Carpenter. 2001. Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy, Chapter 1, 2 and 7.
- C. Lindbloom. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through," in *APSR*
- A. Downs. 1967. *Inside Bureaucracy*
- W. Niskanen. 1971. *Bureaucracy and Representative Government*
- H. Helco. 1977. *A Government of Strangers*
- M. Lipsky. 1980. *Street Level Bureaucracy*
- T. Moe. 1985. "Control and Feedback in Economic Regulation," *APSR*
- J. Q. Wilson. 1989. *Bureaucracy*
- J. Marshall. 1990. "Explaining Administrative Process," in *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations*
- G. Miller. 1992. *Managerial Dilemmas*
- Perrow. 1993. *Complex Organizations*
- Epstein and S. O'Halloran. 1994. "Administrative Procedures, Information, and Agency," *AJPS*

- K. Bawn. 1995. "Political Control versus Expertise," in APSR
- Carpenter. 1996. "Adaptive Signal Processing, Hierarchy, and Budgetary Control in Federal Regulation," in APSR
- H. Simon. 1997. *Administrative Behavior (4th Edition), Chapter 5.*
- J. Brehm and S. Gates. 1997. *Working, Shirking and Sabotage*