



POLITICAL SCIENCE 7900

SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS

Louisiana State University, Spring 2017
Mondays 1:30-4:20 p.m.
210 Stubbs Hall

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Office hours: MWF 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., and by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces graduate students to some of the major theoretical concepts and empirical findings in the study of American politics. Students will read books and articles from a wide range of topics—legislatures, courts, executives, bureaucracies, elections, mass opinion and behavior, race and identity, and political organizations—from research using a variety of methodologies and intellectual approaches. In discussions, we will emphasize general concepts in the readings that you will see again throughout your academic career, including those overlapping with other subfields like comparative politics.

The scope of the course is very broad, and these readings provide just a snapshot from a huge literature. The goal is to prepare masters and doctoral students for more focused courses within American politics and comparative politics, and to form the basis (but not the only basis) for a mastery of these fields sufficient for teaching and research in political science.

The course readings range from field-defining classics to cutting-edge developments. Even though the reading load is quite heavy, there remain many topics not on the syllabus or sparsely represented. Students with an interest in reading further on a particular topic are encouraged to refer to citations and references in readings (and forward cites in Google Scholar).

Each week in discussion we will try to address several questions: 1) What are the main concepts in the readings? 2) What is the state of the literature on the subject matter? 3) Is the literature focused on theoretical or empirical questions? 4) What is known and unknown about the subject? 5) How do related readings agree or differ in their approaches and conclusions?

Preparation for Class

The material for this course comes primarily from required readings, but also class discussions. I expect you to finish assigned readings prior to class to participate in discussions and think critically about key concepts. As a rule of thumb, for each hour you are in class, you should plan to spend at least four hours preparing—about 12 hours total per week.

Course Website

All students officially registered for the course can access the course's **Moodle page**. The Moodle page includes a course syllabus, announcements, readings, lecture slides, and any other relevant course information.

Required Reading Materials

There is a heavy amount of reading for this class—around **200-300 pages per week**. **You won't succeed in this class without reading assigned material.** Please complete readings by the date listed on the schedule. Part of the challenge of grad school is managing heavy reading/work loads. Consider reading groups to share notes and prioritizing readings most important/relevant to you. Nonetheless, you are responsible for reading all assigned content.

You are required to read the following books, available from the LSU Bookstore or various online retailers:

1. Schattschneider, E. E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People*. [139 pgs]
2. Mayhew, David. 1974/2004 *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. Yale University Press. 2nd edition. [180 pgs]

¹ Syllabus content partly derived from Ken Kollman & Martin Johnson.

3. Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Harper and Row. [290 pgs]
4. Achen & Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists*. University of Chicago Press. [328 pgs]
5. Kingdon. 1984/2010. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. 2nd edition. [230 pgs]

Many additional readings for the course are academic articles or chapters, posted on Moodle.

I also recommend you keep up with the news and interesting articles on PS blogs. Here are some options:

Nat'l Newspapers:	<i>Wall Street Journal</i> <i>New York Times</i> <i>Washington Post</i> BBC	www.wsj.com www.nyt.com www.washingtonpost.com www.bbc.com/news
PS Blogs:	Monkey Cage Mischiefs of Faction Five Thirty Eight Pollster Duck of Minerva Lawfare Polyarchy	http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/ https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction http://fivethirtyeight.com/ http://www.pollster.com/ http://duckofminerva.com/ https://www.lawfareblog.com/ https://www.vox.com/polyarchy

Evaluating Your Performance

Your overall course grade will be determined by the following:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Weekly Reading Responses:	30%
Book Presentation	10%
10-page Paper & Outline:	40%

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (20%)

Attendance at every class meeting is required. Excused absences will be granted with a signed statement from a doctor or LSU administrator. (Please note: the LSU Student Health Center will not provide medical excuses for short-term illness or injury.) If you know you will miss class with an excused absence (e.g. university-sanctioned event), please let me know well ahead of time. Religious holidays are excused **with prior notification**. Punctuality is crucial. **-10 pts for each unexcused absence.**

Your weekly in-class discussion participation is critical to my ability to track your progress and your own development in understanding the material. This requires you to have a comprehensive understanding of the readings. When we talk about the readings in class, we will discuss the kinds of questions addressed in your reading response memos.

WEEKLY READING RESPONSES (30%)

Due weekly by Sunday, 9 p.m. In ~800 words, describe strengths, weaknesses, and broader significance of the week's readings. Address some of the questions below and integrate several readings (rather than addressing them sequentially). How do they speak to each other? You can reference past readings, but those should not be the focus. Specifically, what are the main scholarly contributions to knowledge? What broad theories & methods are they using? What are their expectations, and what do they find? What are your critiques, observations, and connections?

BOOK PRESENTATION (10%)

Provide a 5-10 minute summary of a required book and lead that portion of the class discussion with questions and your own insights (select the book at the start of the term).

PAPER (40%) – Due 12/4 (outline due 11/20)

Submit an outline of your paper for review on or before November 20. Identify your topic or book and related readings you plan to incorporate.

You will write a 4,000-word essay (+/- 200 words, excluding references) integrating several required readings into an analytical essay or a research proposal, supplementing with additional references you find. I'll post additional details soon.

OR

Choose an extra book to read from the book list (after the required readings) and write a review similar to your book presentation, making connections with other readings from the semester in relation.

Grading

A's are reserved for excellent & exceptional work, B's suggest your work is very good, C's are for satisfactory work.

96.5 and above A+	73.50–76.49 C
93.50 – 96.49 A	70.00–73.49 C-
90.00–93.49 A-	66.50–69.99 D+
86.50–89.99 B+	63.50–66.49 D
83.50–86.49 B	60.00–63.49 D-
80.00–83.49 B-	59.99 and below F
76.50–79.99 C+	

Contact Info

Email is the best way to reach me. I will make every effort to respond within 12-24 hours, but usually much sooner.

I am a resource for you, along with your classmates. **If you have questions** about reading material, lecture content, quizzes, quizzes, or exams, I encourage you to **talk with other grads, come to office hours, and/or make an appointment with me.** This class will challenge you, but I will help you meet it.

For class-related communication, I will use your email address listed in Moodle to contact you, including any important announcements, so be sure your email account in Moodle is up-to-date.

In the Classroom

No computers & silence phones, please. Research shows use of a laptop will, on average, reduce understanding of course material and reduce grades for you – those who sit around someone using a laptop, as well as the user. Therefore, you may not use your laptop for note taking in routine lecture or discussion activities. Please come prepared with paper and writing instrument for taking notes.

Beverages are OK if they have tops to prevent spilling. No food or gum. Thanks! If I am unable to make it to class, I will let you know in advance. If I have not appeared after 10 minutes, you may go.

Partisan perspectives will generally be beside the point in this class, which is analytically focused. Comments of all sorts must be expressed in an appropriate and civil manner that is respectful and that takes into account the academic study of the topic. In this class, you are an academic – not an activist or a pundit.

Accessibility Resources

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students who have a physical, cognitive, systemic, learning or psychiatric disability registered with LSU's Office of Disabilities Services. Please contact me by e-mail, during office hours, or after class during the first two weeks of school to discuss accommodations (or at least 2 days in advance of when you would like them to begin). For more information, please check out the LSU's Disability Services website and office:

<http://students.lsu.edu/disability>.

Writing Center

Check out LSU's writing center and one-on-one writing tutoring for improving your written work in classes.

<https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/cxc/studios/studio151/writing/>

Counseling Services

LSU's Counseling Services assist students on personal, social, career, and study problems that may interfere with academic progress & success. All services are free & can include individual & group counseling, crisis consultations, & wellness groups. The website: <http://www.shc.lsu.edu/counseling.html>. In an emergency, please immediately call 911 & campus security.

Statement of Academic Integrity

Students are bound to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity. All students are expected to read & be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know & understand the academic standards for our community. Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the office of Student Advocacy & Accountability. A first academic violation could result

in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. Ignorance of these guidelines is no excuse for failure to comply.

Syllabus Revisions

This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor with written or verbal notice given to the class.

Outline of the Course

1. Foundations & Structure

Institutions

2. Congress
3. President
4. Bureaucracy
5. Courts & Policy

Organizations & Movements

6. Political Parties
7. Interest Groups
8. Racial Politics

Behavior

9. Elections & Voting
10. Public Opinion
11. Participation
12. Communication

Representation

13. Representation

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings are due on the date scheduled.

APSR = American Political Science Review *AJPS = American Journal of Political Science* *JOP = Journal of Politics*
JLEO = Journal of Law, Economics and Organization *PoP = Perspectives on Politics*

1. Intro – August 21

2. Foundations & Structure – August 28 (~170 pgs)

The Constitution of the United States (15 pgs)

The Federalist Papers No. 10, 39, 45-48, 51, 62, 63. (35 pgs)

Bednar, et al. 2001. A Political Theory of Federalism. (40 pgs)

Bachrach & Baratz. 1962. Two Faces of Power. *APSR*. (4 pgs)

Dahl. 1956 *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. Chs. 1, 4. (60 pgs)

March & Olsen. 1984. The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life. *APSR*. (13 pgs)

3. Labor Day – No Class – September 4 (~290 pgs)

Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. **Entire**. (290 pgs)

4. Congress – September 11 (~314 pgs)

- Mayhew. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. **Entire**. (180 pgs)
- Poole & Rosenthal 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll-Call Voting*. p. 3-26. (24 pgs)
- Wawro & Schickler. 2004. Where's the pivot? Obstruction and lawmaking in the pre-cloture Senate. *AJPS*. (15 pgs)
- Krehbiel. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ch. 1 (20 pgs)
- Hall. 1996. *Participation in Congress*. Ch. 1 (20 pgs)
- Binder. 1999. The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-1996. *APSR* (10 pgs)
- Clinton & Mierowitz. 2004. Testing explanations of strategic voting in legislatures: A reexamination of the Compromise of 1790. *APSR*. (15 pgs)
- Epstein & O'Halloran. 1999. Delegating powers: a transaction cost politics approach to policy making under separate powers. Chs. 1-2. (34 pgs)

5. President – September 18 (~206 pgs)

- Cameron. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Ch 1-2, 4. (108 pgs)
- Kernell. 1997. *Going Public*. chs. 1, 2 (38 pgs)
- Kernell. 1978. Explaining Presidential Popularity. *APSR*. (15 pgs)
- Canes-Wrone & de Marchi. 2002. Presidential Approval and Legislative Success. *JOP* (15 pgs)
- Mayhew. 1991. *Divided We Govern: Party Control, Lawmaking, and Investigations, 1946-1990*. Ch. 1, Excerpts (30 pgs)

6. Development & Bureaucracy – September 25 (~310 pgs)

Development

- Skowronek. 1982. *Building a New American State*. p. 3-46, 165-176. (55 pgs)
- Mickey. 2016. *Paths Out of Dixie*. Ch. 1 (30 pgs)
- Skocpol. *Protecting Soldiers & Mothers*. Ch. 1 (60 pgs)
- Lowi. 1979. *The End of Liberalism* Ch. 1 (30 pgs)

Bureaucracy

- Lupia & McCubbins. 1994. Learning from Oversight: Fire Alarms & Police Patrols Reconstructed. *JLEO*. (30 pgs)
- Shipan. 2004. Regulatory Regimes, Agency Actions, and the Conditional Nature of Political Influence. *APSR* (15 pgs)
- Moe. 1984. The New Economics of Organization. *AJPS* (40 pgs)
- Carpenter. 2001. *Forging Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Ch. 1, Conclusion. (30 pgs)
- McCubbins, Noll, & Weingast. Administrative Instruments as Procedures of Political Control. *JLEO* (30 pgs)

7. Courts & Policy – October 2 (~300 pgs)

Policy

Kingdon. 1984/2010. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. **Entire**. (230 pgs)

Courts

Rosenberg. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* Ch. 1. (30 pgs)

Horowitz. 1977. *The Courts and Social Policy*. Ch. 1. (30 pgs)

Seagal & Cover. 1989. Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices. *APSR* (8 pgs)

8. Political Parties – October 9 (~220 pgs)

Aldrich. 1995. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Party Politics in America*. Chs. 1, 2, 9. (80 pgs)

Bawn et al. 2012. A theory of political parties: Groups, policy demands and nominations in American politics. *PoP*. (20 pgs)

Schickler. *Racial Realignment*. Ch. 1. (25 pgs)

Grossman & Hopkins. 2013. *Asymmetric Politics*. Ch 1. (20 pgs)

Miller & Schofield. 2003. Activists and Partisan Realignment. *APSR* (15 pgs)

Ranney, Austin. 1962. *The Doctrine of Responsible Party Government*. Ch. 2. (14 pgs)

Snyder & Groseclose. 2001. Estimating party influence on roll call voting. *APSR*. (15 pgs)

Box-Steffensmeier et al. 2004. Dynamics of the partisan gender gap. *APSR*. (15 pgs)

Valentino & Sears. 2005. Old Times There Are Not Forgotten: Race and Partisan Realignment in the Contemporary South. *AJPS* (15 pgs)

9. Interest Groups – October 16 (~264 pgs)

Schattschneider. 1960. *The Semisovereign People*. **Entire**. (139 pgs)

Hall & Deardorff. 2006. Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy. *APSR* (15 pgs)

Yackee & Yackee. 2006. A bias towards business? Assessing interest group influence on the US bureaucracy. *JOP* (10 pgs)

Olson. 1981. *The Rise and Fall of Nations*. Ch. 2 (18 pgs)

Wilson. 1973. *Political Organizations*. Ch. 3. (20 pgs)

Chong. 1991. *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*. Chs. 1, 2, 10. (40 pgs)

Hansen. 1985. The Political Economy of Group Membership. *APSR* (15 pgs)

Skocpol et al. 2000. A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Voluntarism in the United States. *APSR* (18 pgs)

10. Racial Politics – October 23 (~330 pgs)

Movements & Structure

McAdam. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of the Black Insurgency*. Chs 3, 7-8 (105 pgs)

Williams. 2003. *The Constraint of Race*. Ch. 1 (40 pgs)

Smith. 1996. *We Have No Leaders*. Ch. 1 (20 pgs)

Black Political Behavior

Tate, K. 1993. *From Protest to Politics*. ch. 4-6 (50 pgs)

Gay. 2004. Putting Race in Context: Identifying the Environmental Determinants of Black Racial Attitudes. *APSR* (14 pgs)

Dawson. 1994. *Behind the Mule*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 3-4. (40 pgs)

Bobo & Gilliam 1990. Race, Sociopolitical Participation, and Black Empowerment. *APSR* (15 pgs)

White Racial Attitudes

Kinder & Winter. 2001. Exploring the Racial Divide: Blacks, Whites, and Opinion on National Policy. *AJPS*. (15 pgs)

Acharya, Blackwell, & Sen. 2015. The Political Legacy of American Slavery. *JOP*. (18 pgs)

Tesler. 2013. The Return of Old-Fashioned Racism to White Americans' Partisan Preferences in the Early Obama Era. *JOP* (12 pgs)

Sniderman, Carmines, Layman, & Carter. 1996. Beyond Race: Social Justice as a Race Neutral Ideal. *AJPS* (10 pgs)

11. Elections & Voting – October 30 (328 pgs)

Achen & Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists*. Entire. (328 pages)

12. Public Opinion – November 6 (~170 pgs)

Origins

Jennings et al. 2009. Politics across generations. *JOP*. (17 pgs)

Alford, Funk, & Hibbing. 2005. Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted? *APSR*. (12 pgs)

Capacity

Converse. 1964. The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics. In Apter (ed.), *Ideology and Discontent*. (40 pgs)

Lupia. 1994. Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information & Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections. *APSR* (12 pgs)

Dynamics

Kam. 2005. Who Toes the Party Line?: Cues, Values, & Individual Differences. *Political Behavior* 27, 163-82. (15 pgs)

Berinsky. 2007. Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict. *JOP* 69(4): 975-997. (20 pgs)

Brader, Valentino, & Suhay. 2008. What Triggers Public Opposition to Immigration? Anxiety, Group Cues, and Immigration Threat. *AJPS* (16 pgs)

Views

Hibbing & Theiss-Morse. 2001. Process preferences & American politics: What the people want government to be. *APSR* (8 pgs)

Walsh. 2012. Putting Inequality in Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective. *APSR* (13 pgs)

Gibson. 2008. Intolerance and political repression in the United States: A half century after McCarthyism. *AJPS* (10 pgs)

13. Participation – November 13 (~230 pgs)

Burns, Schlozman, & Verba. 2001. *Private Roots of Public Action*. Chs. 1, 8, 10 (76 pgs)

Karpowitz, Mendelberg, & Shaker. 2012. Gender inequality in deliberative participation. *APSR* (12 pgs)

Aldrich. 1993. Rational Choice and Turnout. *AJPS* (30 pgs)

McDonald & Popkin. 2001. The Myth of the Vanishing Voter. *APSR* (10 pgs)

Powell. 1986. American Voter Turnout in Comparative Perspective. *APSR*. (25 pgs)

Valentino & Neuner. 2017. Why the Sky Didn't Fall: Mobilizing Anger in Reaction to Voter ID Laws. *PolPsych* (18 pgs)

Krupnikov, Yanna. 2011. When Does Negativity Demobilize? Tracing the Conditional Effect of Negative Campaigning on Voter Turnout. *AJPS* (15 pgs)

Verba. Would the Dream Turn Out to Be A Nightmare? *PolP* (15 pgs)

Lee, Taeku. 2002. *Mobilizing Public Opinion: Black Insurgency and Racial Attitudes in the Civil Rights Era*. Ch. 4 (28 pgs)

14. Communication – November 20 (~135 pgs) – Paper Outline Due

Content

Zaller, J. *A Theory of Media Politics*. Ch 1. (15 pgs)

Mutz & Martin. 2001. Facilitating Communication across Lines of Political Difference: Role of Mass Media. *APSR*. (14 pgs)

News Effects

Arceneaux, Johnson, & Cryderman. 2013. Communication, persuasion, and the conditioning value of selective exposure: Like minds may unite and divide but they mostly tune out. *Political Communication*. (16 pgs)

Iyengar, Peters, & Kinder. 1982. Experimental Demonstrations of the "Not-So-Minimal" Consequences of Television News Programs. *APSR*. (9 pgs)

Markus Prior. 2005. News vs. Entertainment: How Increasing Media Choice Widens Gaps in Political Knowledge and Turnout. *AJPS* (13 pgs)

Beck, et al. 2002. The Social Calculus of Voting: Interpersonal, Media, and Organizational Influences on Presidential Vote Choice. *APSR* (15 pgs)

Strategic Effects

Gerber, Gimpel, Green, & Shaw. 2011. How Large and Long-Lasting Are the Persuasive Effects of Televised Campaign Ads? Results from a Randomized Field Experiment," *APSR* (13 pgs)

Valentino, Hutchings, & White. 2002. Cues That Matter: How Political Ads Prime Racial Attitudes during Campaigns. *APSR* (13 pgs)

Druckman. 2004. Political preference formation: Competition, deliberation, & the (ir)relevance of framing effects. *APSR* (13 pgs)

Brader. 2005. Striking a Responsive Chord: How Political Ads Motivate and Persuade Voters by Appealing to Emotions. *AJPS* (15 pgs)

15. Representation – November 27 (~185 pgs)

Pitkin. 1967. *The Concept of Representation*. Ch. 10. (31 pgs)

Fenno. 1978. *Homestyle*. ch. 1 & excerpts. (20? pgs)

Gilens. 2005. Inequality & Democratic Responsiveness. *POQ*. (16 pgs)

Canes-Wrone, Brady, & Cogan. 2002. Out of Step, Out of Office: Electoral Accountability and House Members' Voting. *APSR*. (12 pgs)

Hutchings. 1998. Issue Salience and Support for Civil Rights Legislation Among Southern Democrats. *LSQ* (20 pgs)

Jacobs & Page. 2005. Who Influences U.S. Foreign Policy? *APSR* (14 pgs)

Skovron & Broockman. 2014. What Politicians Believe About Their Constituents: Asymmetric Misperceptions and Prospects for Constituency Control. (34 pgs)

Stimson et al. 1995. Dynamic representation. *APSR*. (20 pgs)

Canes-Wrone & Shotts. 2004. The Conditional Nature of Presidential Responsiveness to Public Opinion. *AJPS*. (14 pgs)

Paper Due 12/4

Extra Book List

Arnold. 1992. *The Logic of Congressional Action*.

Azari. 2014. *Delivering the People's Message: The Changing Politics of the Presidential Mandate*.

Bareto & Segura. 2014. *Latino America: How America's Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform Politics of the Nation*.

Bartels. 2009. *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*.

Campbell, et al. 1960. *The American Voter*.

Carmines & Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*.

Cohen et al. 2008. *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before & After Reform*.

Cook. 1998. *Governing with the News*.

Cox & McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*.

Cramer. 2016. *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*.

Delli Carpini & Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know About Politics & Why It Matters*.

Dougherty. 2001. *Collective Action Under the Articles of Confederation*.

Fenno. 1977. *Homestyle: House Members in their Districts*.

Gerber. 1999. *The Populist Paradox: Interest Group Influence and the Promise of Direct Legislation*.

Gilens. 1996. *Why Americans Hate Welfare*.

Green, Palmquist & Shickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and Social Identities of Voters*.

Harbridge. 2015. *Is Bipartisanship Dead? Policy Agreement & Agenda-setting in the House of Representatives*.

Hochschild. 1981. *What's Fair? American Beliefs about Distributive Justice*.

Huber & Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion? The Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*.

Kinder & Kalmoe. 2017. *Neither Liberal Nor Conservative: Ideological Innocence in the Mass Public*.

Kinder & Kam. 2010. *Us Against Them: Ethnocentric Foundations of American Opinion*.

Kinder & Sanders. 1996. *Divided by Color: Racial Politics & Democratic Ideals*.

Klinkner & Smith. 1999. *The Unsteady March: The Rise & Decline of Racial Equality in America*.

Kousser & Phillips. 2012. *The Power of American Governors: Winning on Budgets & Losing on Policy*.

Krehbiel. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*.

Lenz. 2013. *Follow the Leader: How Voters Respond to Politicians' Policies & Performance*.

Lin. 2000. *Reform in the Making: The Implementation of Social Policy in Prisons*.

Maltzman et al. *Crafting Law on the Supreme Court*.

Masket. 2016. *The Inevitable Party: Why Attempts to Kill the Party System Fail and How They Weaken Democracy*.

Mendelberg. 2000. *The Race Card: Campaign Strategy, Implicit Messages, and the Norm of Equality*.

Mettler. 2011. *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy*.

Page & Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public: Fifty Years of Trends in Americans' Policy Preferences*.

Peterson. 1981. *City Limits*.

Putnam. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse & Revival of American Community*.

Rosenstone & Hansen. 1993. *Mobilization, Participation and Democracy in America*.

Segal & Spaeth. 2002. *The Supreme Court & the Attitudinal Model Revisited*.

Skowronek. *Politics Presidents Make*.

Swain. 1995. *Black Opinion, Black Interests*.

Tesler. 2013. *Post-racial or Most Racial? Race & Politics in the Obama Era*.

Trounstein. *Political Monopolies in American Cities*.

Verba, Schlozman, & Brady. 1995. *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*.

Zaller. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*.

Plus: any book we read no more than 1 chapter from as required reading.