American Government and Politics
PhD Reading List
George Mason University
(Updated February 6, 2014)

Contents
American Political Development and Thought................................................................. 2
Methods ............................................................................................................................. 4
Presidency ......................................................................................................................... 5
Legislative Politics ............................................................................................................ 7
The Courts ......................................................................................................................... 12
Elections and Voting Behavior ......................................................................................... 14
Bureaucracy and Public Administration ......................................................................... 18
Political Parties and Interest Groups ............................................................................. 21
Public Opinion and Political Behavior ........................................................................... 25
Public Policy ................................................................................................................... 28
Race, Gender, Inequality ................................................................................................. 30

This reading list, while not exhaustive, is extensive and should be approached as a “greatest hits” list of recommended readings for anyone who seeks to demonstrate mastery and competency across a variety of subfields in American politics. Throughout the document, items marked with an asterisks (*) are considered especially important or pivotal.

1 Syllabi consulted:
PLSC 541, American Policymaking Institutions and Processes. Penn State University, Fall Term, 2008. Prof. Frank Baumgartner.
Congress & Legislative Behavior. Spring 2010. Professor Michael McDonald.
GOVT 712 Problem Solving/Data Analysis II. Fall 2012. Professor Michael McDonald.
GOVT 719 Comparative Electoral Institutions. Spring 2013. Professor Michael McDonald.
Graduate Seminar in American Politics II. MIT. Spring 2010. Prof. Charles Stewart III.
American Political Development and Thought

Ackerman, Bruce. *We The People*, volumes 1-3.


Beard, Charles. 1913. *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*.


Paine, Thomas. 1776. *Common Sense*.


**Methods**


*Alexander, George and Andrew Bennett, Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences (2005). MIT press


### Presidency


Legislative Politics


*Koger, Gregory. 2010. Filibustering. Chicago UP.


The Courts


*Epstein, L., & Knight, J. (1997). The Choices Justices Make. SAGE.


**Elections and Voting Behavior**


**Bureaucracy and Public Administration**


**Political Parties and Interest Groups**


---

**Public Opinion and Political Behavior**


Public Policy


Race, Gender, Inequality


