

Master Reading List for PhD Exam in Public Policy
UNR Department of Political Science

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Students should be familiar with the material contained in this reading list. Much of the material on the list is covered in your core classes, but some will be new to you. While this list is long, the exam will be composed with sufficient choice in questions that well-read students can choose to answer questions on the areas most appropriate given their knowledge base. On the other hand, while we have tried to reduce the size of the list, we still encourage you to take this as a starting point, rather than the end-all-be-all of policy readings. You should generally be able to trace the historic evolution of the subdiscipline, be familiar with the critical works, understand the roles of the major policy actors within each theoretical perspectives, be able to compare and contract the major theories, and apply them to a substantive area of policy interest.

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I. Public Policy as a Field of Study

A. Background and Classics

Allison, G. T. (1999). *Essence of decision: explaining the Cuban missile crisis*: Longman.

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Dahl Robert, A. (1961). *Who Governs, Democracy and power in an American city* New Haven: Yale University Press: New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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Dewey, J. (1927). *The Public and its Problems*, New York, Holt.

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Lasswell, H. D. (1936). *Politics: Who get What, When, How*. New York.

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39, pp. p517-26).

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Schumpeter, J. A. (1942). *Socialism, Capitalism and Democracy*: Harper and Brothers.

Wright Mills, C. (1956). *The Power Elite*: Oxford: Oxford University Press.

B. General Works and Theory Overviews

Conlan, T. (1988). *New Federalism: Intergovernmental Reform from Nixon to Reagan*: Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution.

Mccool, D. (1995). *Public policy theories, models, and concepts*: Prentice Hall Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

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Sabatier, P. A. (2007). *Theories of the Policy Process* (2nd ed.). Boulder: Westview Press.

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II. Collective Action, Public Choice and New Institutionalism

Alchian, A. A. & Demsetz, H. (1972). Production, Information Costs, and Economic Organization, *The American Economic Review* (Vol. 62, pp. 777-95): American Economic Association.

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Mueller, D. (1989). *Public Choice II*. New York: Cambridge.

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Williamson, O. E. (1981). *The Economics of Organization: The transaction cost approach*, *American Journal of Sociology* (Vol. 87, pp. 548-77).

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III. Policy Subsystems

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Hecl, H. (1977). *A Government of Strangers: Executive Politics in Washington*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institute.

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Mintrom, M. & Vergari, S. (1996). *Advocacy Coalitions, Policy Entrepreneurs, and Policy Change*, *Policy Studies Journal* (Vol. 24, pp. 420-34).

Moe, T. M. (1989). *The politics of bureaucratic structure, Can the Government Govern?* (pp. 267-329). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

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Wilson, J. Q. (1980). *The Politics of Regulation*. New York: Basic Books.

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IV. Social Constructivist

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Majone, G. (1989). *Evidence, argument, and persuasion in public policy*: New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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V. Policy Process Literature

A. Agenda Setting and Policy Formulation

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VI. Policy Evaluation & Analysis

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