

The 2017 Guide to Choosing Your Textbook

Introduction

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The selection of a textbook is one of the most important decisions a professor makes when preparing his or her courses and syllabi. The textbooks we select for our courses can directly impact the approach and themes of a course and often represent the majority of readings which students will be assigned throughout the semester. Unfortunately, the selection of a course textbook is often made in a haphazard manner. Faculty make this critical decision by simply choosing a textbook they previously used as a student or graduate teaching assistant, the text used by the preceding professor, or simply the textbook suggested by the last publishing sales representative who visited their office.

The goal of this symposium is to provide both junior and senior faculty with a simple and useful resource to assist with

selecting a textbook. The plan is to include in each April issue of *PS: Political Science & Politics* a review of several textbooks for four to six courses regularly offered in political science curricula. Each of the reviews will provide a systematic review of several core textbooks and a few new and/or innovative texts. The reviewers will focus on a variety of issues they recognize as important in the selection of textbooks for the courses.

This inaugural textbook review symposium examines texts of five core courses offered within political science curricula including: (1) Introduction to Political Theory, (2) American National Government, (3) State and Local Government, (4) Undergraduate Methods, and (5) Graduate Methods (see table 1). As symposium editor, I hope the readers of *PS* find this symposium to be a useful resource in selecting the right textbook for your students and courses. Finally, I encourage faculty to contact *PS* if they are interested in contributing to next April's review of textbooks. We have not yet selected the courses we will be reviewing for the April 2018 textbook review symposium and we always appreciate input of our readers. ■

Table 1

Reviewed Textbooks by Course

Course	Textbook	Author(s)
Political Theory	<i>Political Ideologies (9th edition)</i>	Baradat
	<i>Political Philosophy</i>	Smith
	<i>An Introduction to Political Philosophy (Revised edition)</i>	Wolff
	<i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i>	Miller
	<i>Introduction to Political Theory (3rd edition)</i>	Hoffman & Graham
	<i>History of Political Theory, An Introduction; Volume I: Ancient and Medieval (2nd edition)</i>	Klosko
	<i>History of Political Theory, An Introduction; Volume II: Modern (2nd edition)</i>	Klosko
	<i>Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal (9th edition)</i>	Ball, Dagger, & O'Neill
American National Government	<i>We The People (10th edition)</i>	Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, & Tolbert
	<i>The Logic of American Politics (7th edition)</i>	Kernell, Jacobson, Kousser, & Vavreck
	<i>The Struggle for Democracy</i>	Edward S. Greenberg and Benjamin I. Page
	<i>American Government: Roots and Reform</i>	O'Connor, Sabato, & Yanus
	<i>American Government: Institutions and Policies (15th edition)</i>	Wilson, Dilulio, Jr., Bose, & Levendusky

Table 1 (Continued)

Course	Textbook	Author(s)
State & Local Government	<i>State and Local Government</i>	Bowman & Kearney
	<i>State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform</i>	Donovan, Smith, Osborn, & Mooney
	<i>Politics and Policy in American States and Communities</i>	Dresang, & Gosling.
	<i>Politics in States and Communities</i>	Dye & MacManus
	<i>Politics and Policy in States and Communities</i>	Harrigan, & Nice
	<i>State and Local Government by the People</i>	Magleby, Light, & Nemacheck
	<i>Governing States and Localities</i>	Smith & Greenblatt
Undergraduate Methods	<i>The Essentials of Political Analysis (4th edition)</i>	Pollock
	<i>Political Science Research Methods (8th edition)</i>	Johnson, Reynolds, & Mycoff
	<i>The Fundamentals of Political Science Research (2nd edition)</i>	Kellstedt & Whitten
	<i>Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data</i>	Wheelan
	<i>Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction</i>	Kosuke
Graduate Methods	<i>Real Stats: Using Econometrics for Political Science and Public Policy</i>	Bailey
	<i>Applied Regression Analysis & Generalized Linear Models (3rd edition)</i>	Fox
	<i>Econometric Analysis (7th edition)</i>	Greene
	<i>Basic Econometric (5th edition)</i>	Gujarati & Porter
	<i>Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach (6th edition)</i>	Wooldridge

SYMPOSIUM CONTRIBUTORS

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