

Readings for Interns

Many, if not most, readings that are covered in an internship course are those selected by students conducting research projects.¹ In some internship classes, professors and instructors assign common readings to promote knowledge, provoke group discussion, inspire individual reflection, or simply provide practical advice. The following compilation includes a few such readings suggested by some of our authors and others,² organized alphabetically by general topic and type of internship placement. Excerpts from some of these titles, rather than the entire texts, are often assigned. This list is neither comprehensive nor definitive, and the inclusion or exclusion of titles should be considered neither an endorsement of these or lack thereof. This list contains readings that have been assigned by colleagues who are practiced in the area of political science or public affairs internships, and should be considered a starting point for exploration. It will be periodically updated on the website, APSA Educate.

Bureaucracy and Administration

Fischer, Frank, and Carmen Sirianni, eds. 1984. *Critical Studies in Organization and Bureaucracy*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. [excerpts recommended]

Campaigns and Elections

Semiatin, Richard, ed. 2020. *Campaigns on the Cutting Edge*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Simpson, Dick and Betty O'Shaughnessy. 2016. *Winning Elections in the 21st Century*. Lawrence, KS: Kansas University Press.

Conduct of Internships; Learning by Doing

Brown, John S., Allen Collins, and Paul Duguid. 1989. "Situated Cognition and the Culture of Learning." *Educational Researcher* 18(1): 32-42.

Reeher, Grant and Mack Mariani. 2002. *The Insider's Guide to Political Internships*. Boulder: Westview.

¹ At least this was the conclusion that the editors reached after conducting an informal (and unrepresentative) survey of internship coordinators in 2021.

² With appreciation for their suggestions, this list was developed with help from the following contributors: John C. Berg, Cynthia Chávez Metoyer, Grant Ferguson, Joshua Franco, Dick Simpson, and two anonymous contributors. Four titles were derived from Ambrose and Poklop (2015): Ambrose, Susan A., and Laurie Poklop. 2015. "Do Students Really Learn from Experience?" *Change* 47 (1): 54-61.

Congress and Congressional Internships

Waxman, Henry, with Joshua Green. *The Waxman Report: How Congress Really Works*. New York: Twelve Publishing.

Grabowski, Sue. 2006 (1986). *Congressional Intern Handbook*. Washington, DC: Congressional Management Foundation.
https://www.congressfoundation.org/storage/documents/CMF_Pubs/cmf-congressional-intern-handbook.pdf.

CMF. 2020 (1984). *Setting Course: A Congressional Management Guide*. Washington, DC: Congressional Management Foundation.

State Legislatures

Rosenthal, Alan. *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2004.

----- . *Legislative Life: People, Process, and Performance in the States*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981. (Rosenthal was the long-time director of the study of state legislatures at the Eagelton Institute, Rutgers; both books are comparative studies of what legislators do.)

California

Boyarsky, Bill. 2007. *Big Daddy: Jesse Unruh and the Art of Power Politics*. Oakland: University of California Press.

Micheli, Chris. 2021. *The California Legislature and Its Legislative Process: Cases and Materials*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Starr, Kevin. 2007. *California: A History*. New York: Modern Library Press.

Massachusetts

McDonough, John E. *Experiencing Politics: A Legislator's Stories of Government and Health Care*. California/Milbank Series on Health and the Public. Berkeley: University of California Press ; New York: Milbank Memorial Fund, 2000. (McDonough was in the Massachusetts State House for 10 years; after leaving, he got a PhD in Public Policy. The book matches various theories of public policy with examples from is experience.)

Vermont

Wright, Ralph G. *Inside the Statehouse: Lessons from the Speaker*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2005. (Wright was Speaker of the Vermont House).

Wisconsin

Loftus, Tom. *The Art of Legislative Politics*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 1994. (Loftus was Speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly)

NOTE: The books by Loftus, McDonough, and Wright let students compare the full-time, highly professional Massachusetts General Court with the very part-time Vermont legislature and the Wisconsin Assembly which is somewhere in between. They are full of anecdotes that illustrate political science propositions.

Judicial or Legal Internships

Breyer, Stephen. 2011. *Making our Democracy Work: A Judge's View*. New York: Vintage.

Gibson, James L. and Michael Nelson. 2017. "Reconsidering Positivity Theory: What Roles Do Politicization, Ideological Disagreement, and Legal Realism Play in Shaping U.S. Supreme Court Legitimacy?" *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 14 (3): 592-617. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3016684> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jels.12157>.

Scalia, Antonin. 1998. *A Matter of Interpretation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Political Activism

Alinsky, Saul. 1971. *Rules for Radicals*. New York: Vintage.

Graham, Bob, and Chris Hand. 2016. *America, The Owner's Manual: Making Government Work for You*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Liu, Eric. 2013. "Why Ordinary People Need to Understand Power." TED Talk, September [video].
https://www.ted.com/talks/eric_liu_why_ordinary_people_need_to_understand_power.

Public Policy

Allison, Graham T. 1971. *The Essence of Decision*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Brown-Dean, Khalilah L. 2019. *Identity Politics in the United States*. New York: Wiley.

Ingram, Helen and Anne L. Schneider. 2005. "Introduction: Public Policy and the Social Construction of Deservedness." In *Deserving and Entitled*, ed. Helen Ingram and Anne L. Schneider. Albany: State University of New York Press.
<https://www.sunypress.edu/pdf/61060.pdf>.

Lindblom, Charles. 1957. "The Science of Muddling Through." *Public Administration Review* 19:79-88.

Meltsner, Arnold J. 1976. *Policy Analysts in the Bureaucracy*. Oakland: University of California Press.

Weiss, Carol H. 1980. *Social Science Research and Decision-making*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Race and Ethnic Politics and Policy

Alexander, Michelle. 2020 (2010). *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.

Kendi, Ibram X. 2019. *How to Be an Antiracist*. New York: One World.

Muhammad, Khalil Gibran. 2019. *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Wing Sue, Derald. 2015. *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Non-Academic or Popular Press Readings: Leadership- and Career-Related

Burnett, Bill, and Dave Evans. 2016. *Designing Your Life*. New York: Knopf.

Dweck, Carol. 2012. *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Kahneman, Daniel. 2013. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Langer, Ellen. 2016 (1997). *The Power of Mindful Learning*. Boston: Da Capo Lifelong Books.

Maxwell, John C. 2007 (1998). *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Pink, Daniel H. 2010. *Drive*. New York: Penguin.

Pollak, Lindsey. 2012. *Getting from College to Career*. New York : Harper Business.