This is a listing of important books in various areas of the field of comparative politics. A capable graduate student be well versed with these books. The list is exhaustive though not definitive and will be updated biennially.

A few words on textbooks and scholarly works. A textbook is a compilation of generally acknowledged facts and concepts compiled in essays used to explain various political science topics. While they may occasionally be used in selected graduate courses, they are generally geared to introductory courses. Consequently, they are inappropriate for use in graduate level comprehensive examinations. Such examinations are designed to ascertain your knowledge of the original work found in scholarly books.

**Canonical Works in Comparative Politics**

**Democratic Performance**


**Elections and Electoral Systems**


**Ethnicity, Identity Politics, and Nationalism**


**Formal Theory**


**Institutions**


**Interest Groups**


Mancur Olson. *The Logic of Collective Action*.

**Methodology**


**Participation, Collective Action, Social Movements**


**Parties and Party Systems**


**Political Culture and Mass Behavior**


**Political Development**


**Political Economy**


**Rebellion, Revolution, and Violence**


**Regimes and Democratization**


**States and State-Building**


Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer & Theda Skocpol, *Bringing the State Back In*. 1985.


**Subnational Politics**


**African Politics**


**Caribbean Politics & Political Economy**


**Middle East Politics**


Marc Lynch, *The Arab Uprising, the Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. Public Affairs, 2012.


**Chinese Politics**


