This is a listing of important books in various areas of American Government and Political Behavior. A capable graduate student will be conversant with at least some of these books. The list should be considered to be exhaustive, though not definitive. It will be updated biennially.

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

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**American Political Theory**


Martin Luther King, Jr., *Where Do We Go From Here?* (New York: Harper and Row, 1967).

**Congress**


Roger Davidson and Walter Oleszek, *Congress and Its Members*, (Washington, DC: CQ Press). Note: This book is now in its 14th edition. You’ll have to cite which edition to which you refer.


**The Constitution**


E. S. Corwin, *The Constitution of the United States*,


**Foreign Policy**


**Intergovernmental Relations**


E. Blains Finer, ed., *A Decade of Revolution: Perspective on State and Local Relations*, (Washington,


**The Judiciary**


The Presidency


State and Local Government


Coleman Ransone, Jr., The American Governorship, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982).


**The Bureaucracy**


**POLITICAL BEHAVIOR**

**Parties and Politics**


APSA, Report of the Committee on Political Parties, “Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System.”


Pressure Groups


Public Opinion


Next Revision: September 2016
Federalism refers to the system of relations between these levels of government. Many of the major events in American History have involved questions about the proper relation between the national government and the states. In terms of governments around the world, the federal bicameral republic is a fairly rare form of governance. The federal government of the United States (U.S. federal government) is the national government of the United States, a federal republic in North America, composed of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories and several island possessions. The federal government is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial, whose powers are vested by the U.S. Constitution in the Congress, the president and the federal courts, respectively. The powers and
Leading America’s foreign policy to advance the interests and security of the American people. An official website of the United States government Here’s how you know. Official websites use .gov. A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. Secure .gov websites use HTTPS. A lock ( ) or https:// means you’ve safely connected to the .gov website. The federal government of the United States (U.S. federal government) is the national government of the United States, a federal republic in North America, composed of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories and several island possessions. The federal government is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial, whose powers are vested by the U.S. Constitution in the Congress, the president and the federal courts, respectively. The powers and Since the American Civil War, the powers of the federal government have generally expanded greatly, although there have been periods since that time of legislative branch dominance (e.g., the decades immediately following the Civil War) or when states’ rights proponents have succeeded in limiting federal power through legislative action, executive prerogative or by constitutional interpretation by the courts.[2][3]. Senate. In contrast, the Senate is made up of two senators from each state, regardless of population. USA.gov can help you start your search for government information by topic and agency. Official websites use .gov A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. Secure .gov websites use HTTPS A lock ( ). A locked padlock. The government of the United States of America is federal in structure. In addition to a national government, there are fifty state governments. Federalism refers to the system of relations between these levels of government. Many of the major events in American History have involved questions about the proper relation between the national government and the states. In terms of governments around the world, the federal bicameral republic is a fairly rare form of governance.