

763 Competency Guide

You should have a strong grasp of the literature read in the course. Additional readings are noted in parentheses next to the subject matter with which I wish you to be familiar.

1. You should know the following units of analysis and theoretical approaches:
 - Individual rational choice and its criticisms (Donald P. Green and Ian Shapiro, *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory: A Critique of Applications in Political Science* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), ch. 1).
 - Group theories: pluralism, corporatism (see Phillippe Schmitter “Still the Century of Corporatism?” *Review of Politics* 36 (1974): 85-131), Olson’s selective benefits theory, Marx’s theory
 - Institutions (see also Gary Cox “On the Effects of Legislative Rules.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 25 (2000):169-192); James G. March and Johan P. Olsen, “The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life,” *American Political Science Review* 78 (1984): 734-49.

2. You should know the following macro-theories of the policy process:
 - Institutional rational choice
 - Advocacy coalitions
 - Diffusion/innovation
 - Stages approach
 - Policy streams

3. You should have some familiarity with these important theoretical questions:
 - Agenda setting (Gary Cox, “Agenda Setting in the U.S. House: A Majority Party Monopoly?” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 26 (2001): 185-210.
 - Representation (James A. Stimson, Michael MacKuen, Robert S. Erikson, “Dynamic Representation”, *American Political Science Review* 89 (1995): 543-65.
 - Principal-Agent Theory