

# Public Choice — Essential Reading List

ECO1028 — Spring 2026

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**Textbook (optional):** Mueller, D. C. (2003). *Public Choice III*. Cambridge University Press.

## Week 1: Introduction

**Required:** Shughart (2018) — Public Choice Theory

**Optional:** Buchanan (2003) — Politics Without Romance

## Week 2: Paradox of Voting

**Required:** Feddersen (2004) — Rational Choice Theory and the Paradox of Not Voting

**Optional:** Blais (2006) — What Affects Voter Turnout?

## Week 3: Median Voter Theorem

**Required:** Holcombe (1989) — The Median Voter Model in Public Choice Theory

**Optional:** Lee et al. (2004) — Do Voters Affect or Elect Policies?

## Week 4: Political Competition & Macroeconomic Performance

**Required:** Shi & Svensson (2006) — Political Budget Cycles

**Required:** Alesina & Summers (1993) — Central Bank Independence

**Optional:** Schuknecht (2000) — Fiscal Policy Cycles

## Week 5: Bureaucracy

**Required:** Wyckoff (1990) — The Simple Analytics of Slack-Maximizing Bureaucracy

**Optional:** Dunleavy (1985) — Bureaucrats and State Growth

## Week 6: Federalism & Decentralisation

**Required:** Oates (1999) — An Essay on Fiscal Federalism

**Optional:** Tiebout (1956) — A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures

## Week 7: Interest Groups, Rent-Seeking & Lobbying

**Required:** Olson (1965) — *The Logic of Collective Action*, Chapter 1

**Optional:** Tullock (1967) — The Welfare Costs of Tariffs

**Optional:** Stigler (1971) — The Theory of Economic Regulation

## Week 8: Behavioural Economics

**Required:** Thaler & Sunstein (2003) — Libertarian Paternalism

**Optional:** DellaVigna (2009) — Psychology and Economics

## **Week 9: Institutions, Development & Political Regimes**

**Required:** Acemoglu et al. (2005) — Institutions and Growth

**Required:** Rodrik et al. (2004) — Institutions Rule

**Optional (self-study):** Mueller (2003) — Chapter 18: Dictatorship & Revolution

**Optional (self-study):** Gandhi & Przeworski (2006) — History of Dictators

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### **Reading Priorities**

1. **Required readings** — Read before class, focus on main argument and evidence
2. **Optional readings** — Read for your Irish Context presentation week or Project 1 background
3. **Self-study materials (Week 9)** — Only if interested in dictatorship/autocracy topic

### **Finding Papers**

If you can't access something, email me at beatriz.gietner@dcu.ie

**See complete reading list on Loop/GitHub for:**

- Full citations with journal details
- Additional optional readings
- Reading tips and strategies
- Supplementary resources