Paper details:

1. What is public opinion? How is it measured? What other roles does public opinion play in politics? (hint: how is it used the president and Congress?) 2. What is political socialization? Which of the long term influences listed in the lecture are important to you? In other words, how did you acquire your beliefs regarding politics? Do any of the short-term influences matter to you?

Political socialization describes the process by which citizens crystalize political identities, values and behavior that remain relatively persistent throughout later life. This chapter provides a comprehensive discussion of the scholarly debate on political socialization, posing a number of questions that arise in the study of political socialization and the making of citizens. First, what is it about early life experiences that makes them matter for political attitudes, political engagement, and political behavior? Second, what age is crucial in the development of citizens’ political outlook? Third, who and what influences political orientations and behavior in early life, and how are cohorts colored by the nature of time when they come of age? Fourth, how do political preferences and behavior develop after the impressionable years? The chapter further provides an outlook of the challenges and opportunities for the field of political socialization.