

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

**Political Science G8236x-G8237y**  
**Themes in American Political Development**  
Fall 2005, Spring 2006; Tuesday, 4.10-6PM

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Integrated with two ISERP-sponsored workshops—on 20th Century American Politics and Society, and on Institutions—this course offers a critical audit of the substantive and conceptual achievements of ‘American Political Development’ (APD), and explores potential research possibilities that lie broadly within the ambit of this ‘school.’

Students introduce and help direct class discussions on a rotating basis, typically in panels of two or three. Each week’s leaders distribute a 300-500 word document (that is, no more than two double-spaced pages) in advance to identify key arguments, concepts, and questions they believe would productively orient class discussion. Copies are posted by e-mail no later than the evening before we meet to the course list-serve.

As there is quite a lot of reading (APD tends to be book-oriented), it is important that you read not just actively but efficiently and schematically to quickly identify and assess the background assumptions, central puzzles, main arguments, lines of reasoning, types of data, and uses of evidence of each work. Your notes should be organized crisply, in ways that make it possible to retrieve your thoughts and strands of ideas.

Over the course of the year, in addition to the expectation of well-prepared and active participation there are three writing requirements:

1. Reflections in a class journal that consider, a pace and manner most helpful to each student, analytical, historical, and empirical matters raised course readings and discussions. Your journal should not spend time summarizing material. Rather it offers a chance to engage with class themes in ways that only writing can offer. Composed in the form and length you find most congenial, these intellectual chronicles will not be formally graded. Rather, they will be considered as an integral part of each student’s responsibility to think in a critical and exploratory vein about APD.
2. A short paper of no more than 10-12 pages written as the sort of review essay that appears from time to time in *World Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Reviews in American History*, *Comparative Politics*, and *The New York Review of Books*.
3. A longer paper of no more than 25-30 pages that might take one of another of formats: an analytical paper, an empirically-informed and historically-oriented research paper, or a research prospectus.

## Syllabus

Note: Readings are on reserve in Lehman Library. Books are available for purchase at Labyrinth Books (536 West 112<sup>th</sup> Street).

### September 6:

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, "The Study of American Political Development," in Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, eds., Political Science: State of the Discipline. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. for the American Political Science Association, 2002

Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, "Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science," in Katznelson and Milner, Political Science

### September 13:

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, The Search for American Political Development. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004

### September 20:

Workshop

### September 27:

Louis Hartz, The Liberal Tradition in America. New York: Harcourt, 1955

Rogers M. Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America," American Political Science Review, 87 (1993): 549-566

Desmond S. King and Rogers M. Smith, "Racial Orders in American Political Development," American Political Science Review 99 (2005): 75-92.

### October 4:

No class (Jewish New Year); research/writing appointments October 5.

### October 11:

J.P. Nettl, "The State as a Conceptual Variable," World Politics, 20 (July 1968)

Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," and Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, "On the Road Toward a More Adequate Understanding of the State," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, eds., Bringing the State Back In. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985 (chapters 1 and 11)

Stephen Skowronek, Building a New American State. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982

**October 18:**

Workshop (first journal due)

**October 25:**

Michael J. Braddick, State Formation in Early Modern England, c1550-1700. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000; or

John Brewer, The Sinews of Power: War, Money, and the English State, 1688-1783. New York: Knopf, 1989; or

Jack Greene, Peripheries and Center: Constitutional Development in the Extended Politics of the British Empire and the United States, 1607-1788. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986; or

Edmund S. Morgan, Inventing the People: The Rise of Popular Sovereignty in England and America. New York: Norton, 1988

**November 1:**

Election Day; University Holiday

**November 8:**

Workshop (second journal due)

**November 15:**

Gary Lawson and Guy Seidman, The Constitution of Empire: Territorial Expansion and American Legal History. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004; or

Adam Rothman, Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005

**November 22:**

Workshop

**November 29:**

David Brion Davis, Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001; and

Edmund S. Morgan, American Slavery/American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia. New York: Norton, 1975; or

Donald E. Fehrenbacher, The Slaveholding Republic: An Account of the United States Government's Relations to Slavery, New York: Oxford University Press, 2001

**December 6:**

Workshop (third journal due)

**December 13:**

Reports on research and writing plans

[short papers to be submitted any time between December 13 and January 17]

**January 17:**

Richard Franklin Bensel, Yankee Leviathan: The Origins of Central State Authority in America. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990; or

Richard Franklin Bensel, The Political Economy of American Industrialization, 1877-1900. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000

**January 24:**

Valelly, Richard M. 2004. The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle for Black Enfranchisement. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; or

Daniel Kryder, Divided Arsenal: Race and the American State During World War II. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000

**January 31:**

Workshop (fourth journal due)

**February 7:**

Theda Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994; or

Jacob Hacker, The Divided Welfare State: The Battle Over Public and Private Social Benefits in the United States. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002

**February 14:**

Workshop

**February 21:**

Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter, eds., Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002

**February 28:**

Eric Schickler, Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001; or

Daniel P. Carpenter, The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001workshop

**March 7:**

Workshop

**March 14:**

Spring Break; no class

**March 21:**

Workshop (fifth journal due)

**March 28:**

research presentations

**April 4:**

research presentations

**April 11:**

Workshop

**April 18:**

research presentations

**April 25:**

research presentations

[long paper due between April 15 and May 1]