Why did Clinton’s healthcare reform fail? Why does the United States have a seemingly limited welfare state? How do we explain persistent racial inequalities? Many political scientists have tackled these questions with “snapshot” explanations that rely on current politics, such as how many seats a party has in Congress or some notion of American political culture. American political development scholars take a different approach. They think about politics as “moving pictures” over time. APD scholars look to the origins and development of the American state and its policies to understand contemporary political phenomena. APD scholarship is both historical and theoretical. Scholars of political development rely on history not merely for its own sake, but for what it can tell us about how politics works more generally. Though APD scholarship covers a broad stretch of American history and a wide scope of topics, in this course we examine the key concepts in the field of American political development.

TEXTS

Please be advised there is a great deal of reading in this course and you should obtain copies of all of the texts and articles. When possible, books will be placed on reserve at University library. The books listed below are available for purchase at the University bookstore, at Mary Jane books or at online retailers such as Amazon.com.


In addition to the required texts, there is a required coursepack available for purchase at Mary Jane Books, 215 Western Avenue.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are expected to come to class ready to engage the reading and your fellow classmates. The date next to the readings indicates when they should be completed. You should read the assigned readings for class on that day. Please be advised rather than midterms we will have weekly quizzes. These quizzes may be given on any day of the week at any point during our class and NO makeup quizzes will be given.
In addition to attendance, reading, and quizzes you are required to write a paper of approximately 1250 words (6 pages). A handout with specific instructions will be distributed in class. Papers are due at the beginning of class.

Paper due date: April 9, 2008 at the beginning of class

Please note your exam schedule:
Final: As specified by the University

The grades for this course will be based on the following items:
Quizzes: 40%
Paper: 25%
Final Exam: 35%

Please note if you require special consideration for any assignment (i.e. late papers, missed exams or classes) you must contact the undergraduate dean. I do not give special consideration for late papers or on exams without written instructions to do so from the dean.

I. INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Week of January 23: Introduction

Thinking in Time, chapter 1 “Success Story: The Cuban Missile Crisis”

Graham Allison. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis” American Political Science Review. (CP)

Week of January 28: Why Study History?
Thinking in Time, chapters 3-8
*In class video: Fog of War

II. KEY CONCEPTS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Time

Week of February 4: How Do We Use Time?
Thinking in Time, chapters 13 “What to Do and How: A Summary” and 14 “Seeing Time as a Stream”

Week of February 11: Case of Conservatism in the United States
B. The State

Week of February 18: State Capacity and State Development

***Classes suspended February 18***

Office of Management and Budget. 2007. “Overview of the President’s 2008 Budget.” (CP)
Office of Management and Budget. 2007. “Mid-Session Review.” (CP)

Week of February 25: The Case of Welfare


C. Change

Week of March 3: Political Change


Week of March 17: Political Change (continued)

**No Class Friday March 21**
Week of March 24: The Case of Healthcare in the United States

D. Culture
Week of March 31: Liberalism

Week of April 7: The Case of Race
***Papers Due: April 9 at the beginning of class***
Michael Walzer. 1990. “What Does It Mean To Be an American?” Social Research (CP)
*In Class Film: The Murder of Emmett Till

III. The Citizen, the State, and American Political Development
Week of April 14: Citizenship Crisis?
John Samples. 2004. “Setting the Record Straight Concerning Low Voter Turnout.” USA Today (CP)
Robert Putnam. 1995 “Tuning In, Tuning Out.” PS: Political Science and Politics. (CP)
Judith Shklar, American Citizenship: The Quest for Inclusion. 25-62. (CP)
Suzanne Mettler, Soldiers to Citizens: Introduction, chapters 1 and 2.

Week of April 21: How the State Shapes Citizens
***Classes suspended Monday, April 21***
Suzanne Mettler, *Soldiers to Citizens*: Chapters 3-7


**Week of April 28: Navigating Citizens’ Response**

Kevin Bruyneel, *The Third Space of Sovereignty*

**IV. Conclusion**

**Week of May 5**: No reading