American Political Development is a subfield of American Politics, with important links to other fields of political science such as political theory, public law, and comparative politics. Rich with disagreements and debates about assumptions, approaches, and methods, the scholarship on APD is united by a concern for theoretically-informed study of the dynamics of political order and change across time. It posits an essential turn to political history to understand the patterns and tensions that constitute political life in the present. Rejecting the fragmentation of the field of American Politics into narrow specialties, it links governing institutions, party and popular politics, public policy, culture, and economics in a broad-gauged search for understanding.

This seminar will examine both classic and current scholarship on APD. It will introduce and evaluate the competing schools of theory and analysis: historical institutionalism, political culture, political economy, gender and racial approaches, policy approaches, etc. Readings will be extensive and challenging, with the goal of providing a strong foundation for further research or application to your particular areas of interest.

The following books are to be purchased. They can be purchased online.


Shorter readings will be available on Blackboard (BB).

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Jan. 24  Introduction to the course

Jan. 31  Classics in the Historical Study of Politics
Reading: Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*, Ch. 1;
Walter Dean Burnham, *Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics*, Ch. 1;
Theodore Lowi, *The End of Liberalism*, Ch. 1-3
(All are on BB)

Feb. 7  American Political Development as a new field in political science
Reading: Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, “Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science”
Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers*, pp. 1-62
(All are on BB)

Feb. 14  Historical institutionalism I: Presidents and political parties

Feb. 21  Historical institutionalism II: Bureaucrats and state-building
Reading: Daniel P. Carpenter, *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy*,
Introduction, Ch. 1-8, Conclusion

Feb. 28  Political economy and historical institutionalism
Mar. 7  APD and political culture
Rogers Smith, “Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz,” (BB)

Mar. 21  APD and race
Reading: Desmond S. King and Rogers M. Smith, *Still a House Divided: Race and Politics in Obama’s America*, Ch. 1-6, 8 (pp. 215-34 only), 9

**Short paper due on March 21**

Mar. 28  Race, Political Parties, and Social Movements
Reading: Eric Schickler, *Racial Realignment*

Apr. 4  Gender, institutions, and public policy
Reading: Suzanne Mettler, *Dividing Citizens: Gender and Federalism in New Deal Public Policy*

Apr. 11  APD and public policy: The case of immigration
Reading: Daniel Tichenor, *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America*

Apr. 18  APD and public policy: The peculiar American welfare state

Apr. 25  The Policy State: The Historical Trajectory of the American Polity
Reading: Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Policy State*

May 2  The role of individual agents in APD
Reading: Adam Sheingate, “The Terrain of the Political Entrepreneur,” Bruce Miroff, “Leadership and American Political Development,” (Both on BB)
May 9  Oral presentations and discussions of papers
      No assigned reading

May 16  **Fifteen-page paper due (for students receiving four course credits)**

Students taking the seminar for four credits will write a 15 page paper/literature review. Suggested topics and potential readings for these papers will be found below. All students taking the seminar will write a 6-8 paper earlier in the semester. This assignment will be handed out in class. Participation in seminar discussions is expected and also will be a factor in grading.

Grading system:
15 page paper:  50%
Short paper: 25%
Participation: 25%

Some Suggested Topics with Relevant Readings:

**Political Change and Periodization**

Walter Dean Burnham, *Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics*
David R. Mayhew, *Electoral Realignments: A Critique of an American Genre*
Bruce Ackerman, *We the People: Foundations*
Theda Skocpol, *Diminished Democracy: From Membership to Management in American Civic Life*
Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*

**Political Culture and Political Development**

Samuel P. Huntington, *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony*
James Morone, *The Democratic Wish: Popular Participation and the Limits of American Government*
Rogers M. Smith, *Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History*
Michael Paul Rogen, *Ronald Reagan the Movie: and Other Episodes in Political Demonology*
J. David Greenstone, *The Lincoln Persuasion*
Political Parties and Political Development

Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton*
Scott James, *Presidents, Parties, and the State: A Party System Perspective on Democratic Regulatory Choice, 1884-1936*
John Gerring, *Party Ideologies in America, 1828-1996*
Sidney Milkis, *The Presidency and the Parties: The Transformation of the American Party System Since the New Deal*
Sidney Milkis, *Theodore Roosevelt, the Progressive Party, and the Transformation of American Democracy*
David Plotke, *Building a Democratic Political Order: Reshaping American Liberalism in the 1930s and 1940s*
John J. Coleman, *Party Decline in America: Policy, Politics, and the Fiscal State*
Daniel Schlozman, *When Movements Anchor Parties: Electoral Alignments in American History*
Bruce Miroff, *The Liberals’ Moment: The McGovern Insurgency and the Identity Crisis of the Democratic Party*
Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, *Off Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy*

The Presidency and Political Development

Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton*
Sidney Milkis, *The Presidency and the Parties: The Transformation of the American Party System Since the New Deal*
Jeffrey Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency*
David A. Crockett, *The Opposition Presidency: Leadership and the Constraints of History*
Kenneth R. Mayer, *With the Stroke of a Pen: Executive Orders and Presidential Power*
Keith Whittington, *Political Foundations of Judicial Supremacy: The Presidency, the Supreme Court, and Constitutional Leadership in U.S. History*

Political Economy and Political Development

Elizabeth Sanders, *Roots of Reform: Farmers, Workers, and the American State, 1877-1917*
Richard Franklin Bensel, *Sectionalism and American Political Development, 1880-1980*
Karen Orren, *Belated Feudalism: Labor, the Law, and Liberal Development in the United States*

Brian Waddell, *The War Against the New Deal: World War II and American Democracy*

Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter, eds., *Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development*

**Race and APD**

Richard M. Valelly, *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle for Black Enfranchisement*

Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America*

Robert C. Lieberman, *Shifting the Color Line: Race and the American Welfare State*

Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America*

Joseph Lowndes, Julie Novkov, and Dorian Warren, eds., *Race and American Political Development*

David Ericson, *Slavery in the American Republic: Developing the Federal Government, 1791-1861*

Joseph Lowndes, *From the New Deal to the New Right: Race and the Southern Origins of Modern Conservatism*

Anthony Chen, *The Fifth Freedom: Jobs, Politics, and Civil Rights, 1941-1972*

**Gender and Political Development**

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*

Gwendolyn Mink, *The Wages of Motherhood: Inequality and the Welfare State, 1917-1942*

Rebecca Edwards, *Angels in the Machinery: Gender in American Party Politics from the Civil War to the Progressive Era*

Christina Wolbrecht, *The Politics of Women’s Rights: Parties, Positions, and Change*

Eileen McDonagh, *The Motherless State: Women’s Political Leadership and American Democracy*

**Public Policy and Political Development**

Patricia Strach, *All in the Family: The Private Roots of American Public Policy*

Jacob Hacker, *The Great Risk Shift: The New Economic Insecurity and the Decline of the American Dream*

Christopher Howard, *The Hidden Welfare State*

Jesse H. Rhodes, *An Education in Politics: The Origin and Evolution of No Child Left Behind*

Suzanne Mettler, *Soldiers to Citizens: The G.I. Bill and the Making of the Greatest Generation*

Suzanne Mettler, *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy*

Andrea Louise Campbell, *How Policies Make Citizens: Senior Political Activism and the*
American Welfare State
Victoria Hattam, *In the Shadow of Race: Jews, Latinos, and Immigrant Politics in the United States*
David Blumenthal and James Morone, *The Heart of Power: Health and Politics in the Oval Office*
Carol Nackenoff and Julie Novkov, eds., *Statebuilding from the Margins: Between Reconstruction and the New Deal*
Eric Patashnik, *Reforms at Risk: What Happens After Major Policy Changes Are Enacted*

General

Richard M. Valelly, Suzanne Mettler, and Robert C. Lieberman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development*