

American Political Development

Spring 2021

Government 355M, Unique No. 38648

TU-TH 9:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m., WCP 1.402 (hybrid class)

Office Hours: by appt.

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Introduction

This is a seminar on American Political Development. The course exposes students to a number of topics related to the application of political science to American history.

Topics to be investigated include American Political Development as subfield, power, the state, race, liberalism, Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, the effects of war, and policymaking. The seminar features a number of critically acclaimed books, articles, and book chapters in the field of American political development, some more recent and others, classics.

We “read around” American political development. This is to say that we read widely—and not only in political science, but also in law, sociology, geography, and history. Doing so will provide a fuller picture of the terrain political science covers and possibly inform future research topics. We will also read scholarship that with contrasting political and ideological implications.

The seminar will examine levels-of-analysis issues, and inquire about the uses of evidence and sources. It will implicitly consider the comparative dimensions to institutional changes in US politics and government.

Grading

Students are responsible for five short papers: 5 percent each, 25% total.

Papers will be interspersed throughout the semester.

Book review of a book *not* on the reading list but relevant to the course: 10%

Please contact your instructor if you'd like recommendations.

Class presentations of the readings (2x) and an oral presentation (1x): 15%
Students will take turns presenting the readings and presenting their book review.

Seminar participation in the class discussion, quality of remarks, attendance: 20%

Midterm test on the concepts and arguments for the first half of the term: 10%

Final take-home test OR 2,000 word research paper: 20%

TEXTBOOKS:

THE ORIGINAL COMPROMISE: WHAT THE CONSTITUTION'S FRAMERS WERE REALLY THINKING
9780199796298

BY ROBERTSON, DAVID BRIAN

PUBLISHED BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, INCORPORATED

PUBLICATION DATE: JAN. 2, 2013

RACIAL REALIGNMENT: THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN LIBERALISM, 1932-1965

9780691153889

BY SCHICKLER, ERIC

PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLICATION DATE: APR. 26, 2016

EMPIRE'S LABOR: THE GLOBAL ARMY THAT SUPPORTS U. S. WARS

9781501742170

BY MOORE, ADAM

PUBLISHED BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLICATION DATE: NOV. 15, 2019

CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN AMERICAN STATE

9781107697973

BY FRANCIS, MEGAN MING

PUBLISHED BY CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLICATION DATE: APR. 21, 2014

LIST PRICE: \$24.99

A COMMUNITY BUILT ON WORDS: THE CONSTITUTION IN HISTORY AND POLITICS

9780226677248

BY POWELL, H. JEFFERSON

PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

PUBLICATION DATE: JUN. 1, 2005

POWER: A RADICAL VIEW

9780333420928

BY LUKES, STEVEN

PUBLISHED BY MACMILLAN EDUCATION UK

ALMOST CITIZENS: PUERTO RICO, THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, AND EMPIRE

9781108401494

BY ERMAN, SAM

PUBLISHED BY CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLICATION DATE: OCT. 24, 2019

Required textbooks (*) are supplemented by required readings (•) available either online through the UT Library system, or on Canvas, posted by your instructor.

Course Schedule:

January 19: Introduction: APD as a discipline and Course Logistics

Jan. 21: American Political Development as a Subfield

- John Gerring. 2003. "APD from a Methodological Point of View" and commentaries by R. Bensel, S. Skowronek and R. Smith, *Studies in American Political Development* 17 No. 1 (Spring) 82-113. PCL online (look up in "JSTOR" in Databases under UT Library Services).

Jan. 26, 28: Does Slavery and Its Legacy Constitute American Exceptionalism?

- * Megan Ming Francis, *Civil Rights and the Making of the American State*, Ch. 1-3, 4-6. Prof. Sparrow leads discussion.

February 2, 4: Race, Liberalism, and American Political Development

- Rogers M. Smith. 1993. "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America." *American Political Science Review* 87 (September), 549-566.
- Rogers Smith and Desmond King. 2005. "Racial Orders in American Political Development," *American Political Science Review* 99 (February), 75-92.

Feb. 9, 11, 16, 18: The Constitution as a Political Document

- * David B. Robertson, *The Original Compromise*, Chs. 1-3, 4-6, 7-12, 13-18

Feb. 23: Power and Political Science

- * Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*, Introduction, Ch. 1

Feb. 25, March 2, 4: The Constitution as Judicial Power

- * H. Jefferson Powell, *A Community Built on Words*, Pref., Ch. 1-3, 6-8, 16-22, Conc.

Mar. 9,11: Racial Realignment and the Temporality of Politics

* Eric Schickler, *Racial Realignment and the Transformation of American Liberalism*, Ch. 1-4, 5-8.

Mar. 14-19: Spring Break

Mar. 23: The Parties Today

* Schickler, *Racial Realignment*, Ch. 9-11

Mar. 25: War and the American State

- Harold Laswell. 1941. "The Garrison State," *American Journal of Sociology* 46, No. 4 (Jan.): 455-468.
- Bartholomew H. Sparrow. 2002. "Limited Wars and the Attenuation of the State: Soldiers, Money, and Political Communication in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam," in *Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development*. Ed. Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 267-300.

Mar. 30: Midterm Test (through March 23)

April 1: The Politics Behind the United States as Superpower

* Adam Moore, *Empire's Labor: The Global Army That Supports U.S. Wars*, Ch. 1-4

Apr. 6, 8: The Politics Behind the United States as Superpower

* Adam Moore, *Empire's Labor*, Ch. 5-7, 8-11

Apr. 13: Military Service and Policy Feedback

- Suzanne Mettler. 2002. "Bringing the State Back in to Civic Engagement: Policy Feedback Effects of the G.I. Bill for World War II Veterans," *American Political Science Review* 96 (July), 351-365.

Book Review Due

Apr. 15: Individual Leadership

- Adam Scheingate. 2007. "The Terrain of the Political Entrepreneur." In *Formative Acts: American Politics in the Making*. Ed. Stephen Skowronek and Matthew Glassman, 13-31. Philadelphia: U. of Pennsylvania Press.
- Bruce Miroff. 2007. "Leadership and American Political Development." In *Formative Acts*, 32-51.

Apr. 20, 22: The United States as a Territorial Empire

* Sam Erman, *Almost Citizens: Puerto Rico, The U.S. Constitution, and Empire*, Chs. 1-3, 4-6.

Apr. 27, 29: The Disability Movement

- Debra L Brucker, and Andrew H. Houtenville, "People With Disabilities in the United States," *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation*, 2015-05, Vol.96 (5), p.771-774.
- Lawrence O. Gostin, "The Americans With Disabilities Act at 25: The Highest Expression of American Values," *JAMA: the journal of the American Medical Association*, 2015-06-09, Vol.313 (22), p.2231-2235.
- Leitner, Jordan B ; Hehman, Eric ; Snowden, Lonnie R, "States higher in racial bias spend less on disabled medicaid enrollees," *Social science & medicine* (1982), 2018-07, Vol.208, p.150-157.
- Dvorit Gilad and Arie Rimmerman, "The Mission and Development Processes of the Disability Movement in Israel and the United States: A Comparison" *Journal of disability policy studies*, 2014-03, Vol.24 (4), p.227-23

May 4: The State Today

- Lawrence R. Jacobs and Desmond King. 2009. "The Political Crisis of the American State." In *The Unsustainable American State*. Ed. Lawrence R. Jacobs and Desmond King, 3-33. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Desmond King and Robert C. Lieberman. 2009. "American State Building: The Theoretical Challenge." In *The Unsustainable American State*. Ed. Lawrence R. Jacobs and Desmond King, 299-322. New York: Oxford University Press.

May 6: Conclusion

No readings.