American Political Development
Spring 2012, W 7:00-9:30pm, PAC 422
Instructor: Elvin Lim
Office: PAC 308
Phone: 860.685.3459
Email: elim@wesleyan.edu
Office Hours: M 4:15-6:00PM and by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to a scholarship and a method of analysis that melds the historical with the institutional, applied to understanding the evolving state/society relationship in American political life. We examine developmental junctures in US history; critical-theoretical themes that cut across studies in political development; and then we will unpack the meaning and assumptions behind development itself.

Logistics

You should purchase the following books from a bookstore of your choice:


Bruce Ackerman, We the People: Transformations (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1998).

You can access all other readings listed below at this course’s Moodle page inside the Readings folder via https://moodle.wesleyan.edu/login/index.php.

The best way to contact me is via email at elim@wesleyan.edu.

For help on writing, you may want to consult http://www.wesleyan.edu/writing/workshop.

Students with documented disabilities must request from Dean Sarah Lazare a letter outlining the accommodations to which you are entitled. Information on disabilities services is available at http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disabilities.html.

Requirements

Class Participation (15%)

Your participation should be rooted in class readings and directed to the topic being discussed.

Mid-Term Paper (35%)

This is an eight-paged (double-spaced) paper due in class on 4/11. Your paper topic(s) will be posted on Moodle on 3/28. You must use a conventional system of scholarly citation, such as prescribed by the Chicago Manual of Style or MLA Documentation, and
in accordance with Wesleyan’s Honor Code. There is no need to cite lectures, but you should use the lecture material as well as the readings to inform your papers.

Final Paper (50%)}

This is a twelve-paged (double-spaced) paper due at noon in my department lock-box (outside the Government Department at the PAC) on 5/7. Your paper topic(s) will be posted on Moodle on 4/25, from which you must pick one to answer in eight pages, double-spaced. You must use a conventional system of scholarly citation, such as prescribed by the Chicago Manual of Style or MLA Documentation, and in accordance with Wesleyan’s Honor Code. There is no need to cite lectures, but you should use the lecture material as well as the readings to inform your papers.

If you deliver your final paper to me electronically, this should supplement and not substitute a hardcopy submission unless I have indicated otherwise. Since all deadlines have been communicated well in advance, there will be no late policy for any of the papers.

Foundational Course Option

Students taking the course with this option will receive more extensive and detailed feedback on their work through more frequent writing assignments and individual meetings with the instructor. Foundational courses are intended to provide an additional level of guidance, support, and feedback to ensure that students cultivate the tools and skills necessary for graduate level research and writing.

Readings

The articles / chapters we will discuss each class day are chronologically listed below. All are required. For readings other than Ackerman and Orren and Skowronek, they can be found inside the Readings folder in this course’s Moodle page, with the relevant pdf identified by the last name of the author(s) for the day’s reading.

2/8: The Founding


2/15: **Jacksonian Democracy**


2/22: **Civil War, Reconstruction and Race**


*Plessy v. Furgerson.*


Brown, CJ Warren’s opinion.


3/5: **The American State** *(Note we meet on Monday this week)*


3/28: **Labor and Liberalism**


4/4: The New Deal and Labor


4/11: Gender and Woman Suffrage


4/18: Defining APD

Orren & Skowronek (henceforth O&S), Chapter 1-4.


4/25: Critique of O&S


5/2: Final Paper Review
List of famous American political leaders with their biographies that include trivia, interesting facts, timeline and life history. Is a career in politics a far-fetched thought for you? Does the slick world of democracy disgust you? Does the venal world of politics make you sick to your stomach? If yes, then you certainly need to explore the lives of some of America's famous political leaders to know why politics is not half as repulsive as it appears to the modern minds. American Political Development, Nineteenth Century United States, Political History. Through the development of this "reservoir of power" Washington firmly entrenched the presidency within the American psyche as its "First Office." And, furthermore, he established a setting condition whereby future presidents would dip into the symbolic presidency as an antecedent for consequential political action. AMERICAN POLITICS READING LIST Department of Political Science, Yale University (Updated Spring 2012). This list should not be understood as a canon that must be internalized to provide a foundation in American politics but as a guide to important issues and controversies in the field. Students should draw on their general knowledge of American politics, as well as courses on American Politics and other relevant areas. K. Orren & S. Skowronek, The Search for American Political Development, chs. 1, 3, 4.