

American Political Development

Spring 2012, W 7:00-9:30pm, PAC 422

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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:

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Search for American Political Development* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Bruce Ackerman, *We the People: Foundations* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1991).

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

Bruce A. Ackerman, *We the People: Foundations* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1991), Chapters 1 & 2.

Bruce Ackerman, *We the People: Transformations* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1998), Chapter 2.

Cecilia Kenyon, "Men of Little Faith: Antifederalists on the Nature of representative Government" *William and Mary Quarterly* 12 (1955): 3-43.

Stanley Elkins and Eric McKittrick, *The Age of Federalism: The Early American Republic, 1788-1800* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 1-29.

Gordon S. Wood, *The Creation of the American Republic: 1776-1787* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), 44-82.

2/15: Jacksonian Democracy

David Brown, "Jeffersonian Ideology and the Second Party System," *The Historian* 62 (1999): 17-30.

James W. Ceaser, *Presidential Selection: Theory and Development* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979), Chapter 3

Major L. Wilson, "The 'Country' versus the 'Court': A Republican Consensus and Party Debate in the Bank War," *Journal of the Early Republic* 15 (1995): 619-647.

Anson D. Morse, "The Political Influence of Andrew Jackson," *Political Science Quarterly* 1 (1886): 153-162.

Douglas W. Jaenecke, "The Jacksonian Integration of Parties into the Constitutional System," *Political Science Quarterly* 101 (1986): 85-107.

2/22: Civil War, Reconstruction and Race

Bruce Ackerman, *We the People: Transformations* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1998) Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

James M. McPherson, *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), Chapters 1 & 2.

[Plessy v. Ferguson](#).

Derrick A. Bell (dissenting), in [Jack M. Balkin \(ed.\), *What Brown v. Board of Education Should Have Said: The Nation's Top Legal Experts Rewrite America's Landmark Civil Rights Decision*](#). (NYU Press, 2001), p. 185-200.

[Brown](#), CJ Warren's opinion.

Sonu Bedi, "How Constitutional Law Rationalizes Racism," *Polity* 42 (2010): 542-567.

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

Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982), Chapter 1, 2, Introduction to Part II, Chapter 3, Introduction to Part III, Chapter 6.

Desmond King and Robert C. Lieberman, "Finding the American State: Transcending the 'Statelessness' Account." *Polity* 40 (July 2008): 368-378.

Adam Sheingate, "Why Can't Americans See the State?" *The Forum* 7 (2009): 1-14.

3/28: Labor and Liberalism

Charles Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution* (London: Macmillan, 1913), Chapter 6.

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1955), Chapters 1, 8 & 9.

Rogers M. Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America," *American Political Science Review* 87 (1993): 549-66.

4/4: The New Deal and Labor

Bruce Ackerman, *We the People: Transformations* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1998) Chapters 10, 11, and 12.

Karen Orren, *Belated Feudalism: Labor, the Law, and Liberal Development in the United States* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991), Chapters 1 & 3.

4/11: Gender and Woman Suffrage

Suzanne M. Marilley, *Woman Suffrage and the Origins of Liberal Feminism in the United States, 1820-1920* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997), Chapter 7.

Anna L. Harvey, *Votes Without Leverage: Women in American Electoral Politics, 1920-1970* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998), Chapter 5.

Kathleen S. Sullivan, "Marriage and Federal Police Power," *Studies in American Political Development* 20 (2006): 45-56.

Sylvia A. Law, "Homosexuality and the Social Meaning of Gender," 1988 *Wisconsin Law Review* 187, 1-47.

Nancy Fraser, "From Redistribution to Recognition" Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Post-Socialist' Age," *New Left Review* 212 (1995): 68-93.

4/18: Defining APD

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

Peter A. Hall and Rosemary C. R. Taylor, "Political Science and the Three Institutionalisms," *Political Studies* 44 (1996): 936-57.

Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), Chapter 1 & 2.

4/25: Critique of O&S

George Thomas, "What is Political Development? A Constitutional Analysis" *Review of Politics* 74 (2011): 275-294.

Elvin T. Lim, *The Lovers Quarrel: A Theory of APD* (forthcoming, Oxford), Ch 1.

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.