

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE // COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Political Science G8236y
Themes in American Political Development
Spring 2013; Thursday, 4.10-6PM

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Office Hours: Thursday, 2.30-4.00pm; e-mail: iik1@columbia.edu

This course conducts a critical audit of the political science subfield of 'American Political Development' (APD). It attends to issues of method, especially the engagement of history and social science, and provides a forum for the development of research.

Students fashion a proposal joined to a tight literature review (limited to 18-20 double-spaced pages; due on April 25). They also introduce and help direct discussions on a rotating basis. To orient the group's conversations, a given week's class leaders distribute a document (no more than two single-spaced pages) that raises questions for discussion. These short documents should identify the readings' background assumptions, and consider their puzzles, arguments, concepts, and types of evidence. Copies must be posted to the course email distribution list no later than the prior evening. The other students also circulate a thought piece (no longer than a single-spaced page) that poses one issue raised by that session's readings and explains why it offers a chance to reflect on a significant theoretical, historical, or empirical matter. These documents are not graded individually, but they form an integral part of each student's course portfolio.

The class is integrated with the 20th century workshop that Alan Brinkley and Ira Katznelson co-direct. Readings are on reserve in Lehman Library. Books are available for purchase at Labyrinth Books (536 West 112th Street).

Syllabus

January 17:

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, "Editor's Preface," *Studies in American Political Development*, 1 (1986): vii-viii

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, "The Study of American Political Development," in Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, eds., *Political Science: State of the Discipline*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. for the American Political Science Association, 2002, pp.722-754

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Search for American Political Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004, chapters 3-5

John Gerring, "APD from a Methodological Point of View," with commentaries by Richard Bense, Stephen Skowronek, and Rogers M. Smith, *Studies*, 17 (April 2003): 82-115

January 24:

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992, pp.1-62

Paul Pierson, "When Effect Becomes Cause: Policy Feedback and Political Change," *World Politics*, 45 (July 1993): 595-628

Ira Katznelson and John Lapinski, "At the Crossroads: Congress and American Political Development," *Perspectives on Politics*, 4 (June 2006): 243-260

Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*, Princeton University Press, 2001, chapters 1 and 4

January 31:

Frederick Watkins, *The State as a Concept in Political Science*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1934

J.P. Nettl, "The State as a Conceptual Variable," *World Politics*, 20 (July 1968)

Peter Baldwin, "Beyond Weak and Strong: Rethinking the State in Comparative Policy History," *Journal of Policy History*, 17 (No. 1, 2005):

William J. Novak, "The Myth of the 'Weak' American State," *American Historical Review*, 113 (June 2008): 752-772

February 7:

Workshop

February 14:

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*. New York: Harcourt, 1955. pp.3-142, 228-309

J. David Greenstone, "Political Culture and American Political Development: Liberty, Union, and the Liberal Bipolarity," *Studies*, 1 (March 1986): 1-49

Andreas Kalyvas and Ira Katznelson, *Liberal Beginnings: Making a Republic for the Moderns*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008, pp.1-17, 88-117.

February 21:

Rogers M. Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America," *American Political Science Review*, 87 (September 1993): 549-566

Rogers Smith and Desmond King, "Racial Orders in American Political Development," *American Political Science Review*, 99 (February 2005): 75-92

V.O. Key, Jr. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949, chapters 1, 14, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31

February 28:

Robin L. Einhorn, "Slavery and the Politics of Taxation in the Early United States," *Studies*, 14 (October 2000): 156-183

Richard John, "Government Institutions as Agents of Change: Rethinking American Political Development in the Early Republic, 1787-1835," *Studies in American Political Development*, 11 (Fall 1997): 347-380

Colleen A. Dunlavy, "Mirror Images: Political Structure and Early Railroad Policy in the United States and Prussia," *Studies*, 5 (March 1991): 1-35

Ira Katznelson, "Flexible Capacity: The Military and Early American Statebuilding," in Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter, eds., *Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, pp. 82-110

March 7:

Workshop

March 14:

Richard Franklin Bensel, *Yankee Leviathan: The Origins of Central State Authority in America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990, chapters 1, 5, 6

Jeffrey A. Jenkins, "Why No Parties? Investigating the Disappearance of Democrat-Whig Divisions in the Confederacy," with commentary by Richard Bensel and a reply by Jenkins, *Studies*, 13 (October 1999): 245-287

March 28:

Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982 (within the book, select as cases chapters 3 and 6, or chapters 4 and 7, or chapters 5 and 8)

Daniel P. Carpenter, "The Corporate Metaphor and Executive Department Centralization in the United States, 1888-1928," *Studies*, 12 (April 1998): 162-203

Daniel P. Carpenter, "State Building Through Reputation Building: Coalitions of Esteem and Program Innovation in the National Postal System, 1883-1913," *Studies*, 14 (October 2000): 121-155

April 4:

Stephen Skowronek, "Franklin Roosevelt and the Modern Presidency," *Studies*, (September 1992): 322-358

Ira Katznelson and Bruce Pietrykowski. "Rebuilding the American State: Evidence from the 1940's," *Studies in American Political Development*, 5 (number 2, 1991): 301-339

Ira Katznelson and Suzanne Mettler, "On Race and Policy History: A Dialogue about the G.I. Bill," *Perspectives on Politics*, 6 (September 2008): 519-536

Ira Katznelson and Sean Farhang, "The Southern Imposition: Congress and Labor in the New Deal and Fair Deal." *Studies*, 19 (April 2005): 1-30

Brian D. Feinstein and Eric Schickler, "Platforms and Partners: The Civil Rights Realignment Reconsidered," *Studies*, 22 (March 2008): 1-31

April 11:

Ira Katznelson, "Rewriting the Epic of America," in Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter, eds., *Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, pp.3-23

David R. Mayhew, "Wars and American Politics," *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (2005), 473-93

Aristide R. Zolberg, "International Engagement and American Democracy: A Comparative Perspective"; Robert O. Keohane, "International Commitments and American Political Institutions in the Nineteenth Century"; Theda Skocpol, et.al., "Patriotic Partnerships: Why Great Wars Nourished American Civic Voluntarism"; and Bartholomew H. Sparrow, "Limited Wars and the Attenuation of the State," in Katznelson and Shefter, *Shaped*, pp.24-54, 57-81, 134-180, 267-300

Harold D. Lasswell, "The Garrison State," *American Journal of Sociology*, 46 (July 1941): 455-468

April 18:
Workshop

April 25:
Presentation of research plans (students circulate in advance a two page précis of the research proposal that is due by this class).