This seminar follows, but is independent from, the class of the same title (G8236y) taught in
the spring 2016 that focused on the meaning and consequences of the United States having
been born free, born slave, and born a state. Here, we center on two connected aspects of
American political development: the character of the United States as a distinctive modern
state and the ways the country has dealt with what Alexander Hamilton called national
exigencies.

The core of the class consists of focused conversations based on careful, timely reading.
Students take turns to introduce these discussions on a rotating basis. All students participate
in setting the class agenda by circulating a one-page, single-spaced thought piece the evening
before each class (posted to an email distribution list) that identifies a particularly significant
and vexing textual issue. These written contributions are not individually graded; rather, they
form part of each student's course portfolio.

This term, members of the spring 2016 APD seminar will write an article length essay that
builds on the proposal written for that class. Others will compose a proposal for further study
joined to a tight literature review (limited to twenty double-spaced pages). These assignments
will be discussed in detail early in the semester. They will be due on December 8.

Attendance at the ‘Workshop on Politics and Society’ that will be meeting on three Thursdays
from 4.10-6pm is strongly encouraged, as the focus this academic year is on democratic
emergencies, a theme central to our class. Course readings are on reserve in Lehman Library.
Office hours will be conducted by appointment on Mondays from 4.15-5.45pm.

**Syllabus**

**September 12: Introduction**

Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," and
Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, "On the Road Toward a More
Adequate Understanding of the State," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda
Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985, chapters
1 and 11

York: Cambridge University Press, 2004, chapters 3-5

**September 19: Analytical Concept**


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


**September 26: State Formation**


**October 3**

No class: Rosh Hashanah holiday [individual meetings to discuss papers on October 5]

**October 10: Democracy and War**


**October 17: Progressive Era Statebuilding**

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


**October 24: The Military in a Liberal State**


**October 31: A Crusading State?**


**November 7:** Academic Holiday; no class

**November 14:** Exigencies and Exceptions (1)

*The Federalist*, 23-29


**November 21:** Exigencies and Exceptions (2)


Clinton Rossiter, “Constitutional Dictatorship in the Atomic Age,” *Review of Politics*, 11 (October 1949), pp.87-95


**November 28:** Exigencies and Exceptions (3)


**December 5**

No class

**December 12**

Class Mini-Conference (2-6pm)