

American Political Development
PSC 5330
Spring 2014 ~ W: 2:30-5:15 ~ Burl 309

Dr. Curt Nichols
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This seminar has three purposes and related sets of requirements:

First, it conducts a critical audit of the “American Political Development” (APD) literature by considering scholarship within and across the subfield. Participants are thus expected to come to class prepared to fully participate in the discussion of the readings. [This seminar is emphatically not a lecture class.] Additionally, participants will help introduce and direct each discussion on a rotating basis. Leaders will additionally help guide that week’s seminar discussion. Full details to be discussed, however, if there is a book length manuscript included in the week’s readings, the week’s leader will find and post two scholarly reviews of the book. All other seminar participants will come to seminar with a two page “reflection” document that demonstrates engagement with the material. They will be turned-in at the end of the seminar and returned the next week. Each non group leading participant can opt out of this requirement once during the semester without penalty. Reflection documents are not individually graded, per se, but they form an integral part of each student’s course portfolio, which will influence the participation grade.

Second, it attends to issues of method, especially in regards to the ways in which social scientific research is written and engages the study of ideas, institutions, and cycles in APD. Participants are thus expected to complete two short, take-home, essays (length TBD).

Third, the course provides a forum for the development of research. Participants are thus expected to either fashion an APD oriented / affiliated research proposal joined to a literature review) or write an APD paper that could be submitted to a conference or journal. Other options may be possible to fulfill this requirement. Let’s talk. For example, I may encourage some students to write a 12-15 comparative book review of:

Skowronek, Stephen. 1982. *Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920*.

Bensel, Richard. 2000. *The Political Economy of American Industrialism: 1877-1900*.

Grades for the seminar will be calculated as follows: leadership of assigned discussions 5% each (x 2); participation in class discussion and portfolio of reflection documents 10%; analytic essays 15% each (x 2); final long project 50%.

100 – 92.5 % = A; 92.4 – 90.0 = A-; 89.9 – 88.0 = B+; 87.9 – 80.0 = B; 79.9 – 70.0 = C;
69.9 – 60.0 = D; 59.9 – 0.00 = F.

Attendance Policy: I expect that everyone will come to every class, be on time, actively participate in course discussions, and demonstrate that he/she has completed and reflected upon the assigned readings.

Honor Code: Students in this course will abide by the Baylor Honor Code. This includes, but is not limited to, the requirement for academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, and any other form of academic dishonesty are serious offenses and, at a minimum, constitute grounds for failure of the course.

Email: e-mail is a courtesy and not a substitute for attending the course or for a discussion during office hours. However I will, from time to time, need to send the class announcements via email. You are responsible for getting my e-mails, so set up your accounts properly. If you have questions or issues you need to discuss, I am reasonably available via e-mail.

Books you may want to buy, borrow, or otherwise get your hands on are underlined.

Schedule, Readings, and Due Dates:

Jan 15 **Introduction: Let's Talk About the American Politics Sub-Field and APD**

Jan 22 **APD: Overview.**

Orren, Karen and Stephen Skowronek. 2004. *The Search for American Political Development*. Chpt 1-3.

Jan 29 **APD: Culture / Ideas, Cycles, and Institutions**

Lieberman, Robert C. 2002. "Ideas, Institutions, and Political Order: Explaining Political Change." *American Political Science Review*. 96 (4): 697-712.

Resnick, David and Norman Thomas. 1990. "Cycling Through American Politics" *Polity*.

Hall, Peter and Rosemary Taylor. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms" *Political Studies*. 44 (1996): 936-957.

Feb 5 **I. Culture and Ideas in APD.**

A. Liberal consensus vs Multi-traditions:

Hartz, Louis. 1955. *Liberal Tradition in America: An Interpretation of American Political Thought Since the Revolution*.

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

Recommended:

Abbott, Philip 2005. "Still Louis Hartz after All These Years: A Defense of the Liberal Society Thesis" *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (1): 93-109

Feb 12 **B. Lost Alternatives part I**

Rodgers, Daniel P. 1992. "Republicanism: the Career of a Concept." *The Journal of American History*. 79 (1): 11-38.

Sandel, Michael. 1996. *Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy*. Belknap. (part I; pp ix-122)

Short analytic essay assigned.

Feb 19 **C. Lost Alternatives part II**

Sandel, Michael. 1996. *Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy*. Belknap. (part II; 123-352)

Feb 26 Tentative **Talk Week (date TBD)** ~ Daniel DiSalvo

DiSalvo, Daniel. 2012. *Engines of Change: Party Factions in American Politics, 1868-2010*. Oxford University Press.

Short analytic essay due.

Mar 5 **II. Cycles in American Political Development**

D. Conceptions of Time as an 'Ordering Mechanism'

Lienesch, Michael. 1988. *New Order of the Ages: Time, the Constitution, and the Making of Modern American Political Thought*. Princeton.

Recommended:

Persons, Stow. 1954. "The Cyclical Theory of History in Eighteenth-Century America" *American Quarterly*. 6: 147-163.

Mar12 **Spring Break – NO CLASS**

Mar 19 **II. Cycles in American Political Development**

A. Mood Cycles (Ideas as Mechanisms of Change)

Schlesinger, Arthur. 1986. *The Cycles of American Politics*. pp ix-50.

Huntington, Samuel. 1986. *American Politics the Promise of Disharmony*. (skip chpt 7).

Mar 26 **B. The Political Time Cycle**

Skowronek, Stephen. 2011. *Presidential Leadership in Political Time (2nd ed.)* The University Press of Kansas.

Nichols, Curt and Adam Myers. "Exploiting the Opportunity for Reconstructive Leadership: Presidential Responses to Enervated Regimes" *American Politics Research* (2010).

Apr 2 **III. Institutions and Statebuilding**

A. The Origins of Political Parties

Jaffa, Harry V. 1961. "The Nature and Origins of the American Party System" in *Political Parties, U.S.A.* ed. Robert A. Goldwin.

Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties? Chpt 2-4.*

Short analytic essay assigned.

April 9 **Talk Week** ~ Stephen Skowronek on Friday the 11th (prep meeting on the 9th)

Orren, Karen and Stephen Skowronek. 2004. *The Search for American Political Development.* Chpt 4-5.

Orren, Karen and Stephen Skowronek. 2014. "Pathways to the Present: Political Development in America" (Prepared for the *Oxford Handbook on American Political Development*, eds, Robert Lieberman, Richard Valelly, and Suzanne Mettler)
– See Blackboard: documents.

April 16 **B. Institutions and Agency**

Sheingate, Adam. "The Terrain of the Political Entrepreneur." In *Formative Acts: American Politics in the Making*, edited by Stephen Skowronek and Matthew Glassman (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007): 13-31.

Miroff, Bruce "Leadership and American Political Development," in *Formative Acts: American Politics in the Making*, eds. Stephen Skowronek and Matthew Glassman (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007): 32-51.

Nichols, Curt. 2013. "Bending the Curve of History through Multiple Modes of Change: Reconstructive Presidential Leadership in a Constrained Environment," working paper.

Short analytic essay due.

April 23 **Tentative Talk Week** (date TBD) ~ **Jeff Tulis : reading TBD.**

April 30 **Writing Week**

May XX **Final Project Due**