

**Princeton University  
Department of Politics**

**Junior Research Workshop #3 – American Political and Constitutional Development  
Fall 2007**

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Time: M 11:00-11:50  
Room: Corwin 126  
office hours: by appointment, office hour scheduling system

This workshop will focus on American and Constitutional Political Development, the development of politics and political institutions over the course of American history. The study of American political development has traditionally been concerned with the nature of political change over time, the path by which we reached our present political state, broad patterns in American politics, and the apparently exceptional nature of American politics and political history compared to that of other capitalist democracies.

A wide variety of questions relating to American political and constitutional history can be pursued in this workshop. A wide variety of questions relating to American political history can be pursued in this workshop, including topics relating to a particular historical period or tracing a political development across time. Particular papers might focus on American constitutional or legal history, American political thought or culture, the presidency, Congress, federalism or state and local politics, political parties and elections, public policy or American political economy, race or gender, or American foreign policy. At a broad level, the workshop invites such questions as: Why no socialism in the United States? How did the president emerge as a popular leader? How has the existence of an independent judiciary affected the course of American politics? What is the role of political parties in altering public policy? What determines American economic policy? How did America get a welfare state? What difference did party machines make? Why does the Supreme Court become activist? Why have civil rights expanded?

Requirements:

Final Paper, 20-35 double-spaced pages: 90% of the grade  
Others papers and drafts: 10% of the grade

All papers (except for final paper) should be turned into me **by email by 5:00 pm** on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for every 24 hours of lateness. The final paper must be turned in to the Politics department office in Corwin Hall. The final paper will not be accepted after the deadline without approval from the Dean's office, and the department imposes a late penalty on final papers of 1/3 of a grade every two calendar days.

Required Readings:

John B. Gates, "Partisan Realignment, Unconstitutional State Policies, and the U.S. Supreme Court, 1837-1964," *American Journal of Political Science* 31 (1987): 259  
Gerald Gamm and Renee M. Smith, "Presidents, Parties, and the Public: Evolving Patterns of Interaction, 1877-1929," in *Speaking to the People*, ed. Richard J. Ellis  
Gerald Gamm, *The Making of New Deal Democrats* ch. 7

The required readings are available on the library's electronic reserve system.

I also recommend that you purchase a copy of a style guide such as Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago Press) and a writing guide such as William Strunk & E. B. White, *The Elements of Style* (Allyn & Bacon), which will serve you well for the next two years. I also recommend perusing a book on conducting political science research, such as

W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research* (Prentice Hall)

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research* (University of Chicago Press).

Gregory M. Scott and Stephen M. Garrison, *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual* (Prentice Hall)

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell University Press)

Janet Johnson, Richard Joslyn, and H.T. Reynolds, *Political Science Research Methods* (CQ Press)

Michael Corbett, *Research Methods in Political Science* (Thompson)

Stella Theodoulo and Rory O'Brien, eds., *Methods for Political Inquiry* (Prentice Hall)

John Creswell, *Research Design* (Sage)

James Carlson and Mark Hyde, *Doing Empirical Political Research* (Houghton Mifflin)

### Schedule:

September 17: Introduction to the topic. Complete Gates, Gamm & Smith readings **before** this session.

Week of September 24: Library skills workshop. NO class meeting. You will attend the library skill workshop for which you signed up at the junior class meeting. All sessions of the library skill workshop meet in Firestone A-6-D. These are extremely valuable sessions. The library is constantly adding new resources and improving their services. I learn new things at these sessions. If I do, you will also.

**Due, October 1:** A two-to-three sentence statement of the question you intend to address in your paper.

October 1: Designing political science research and writing a research paper.

October 8: Library skills workshop. This will be held in Firestone Library 2-6-F. This session will focus on the specific themes of our workshop and your specific topics, so the better prepared you are the more helpful you will find this session in launching your research.

*Schedule an individual appointment* with me for the week of October 8 to discuss your topics. Use the online office hour scheduling system to make these appointments.

**Due, November 5:** Research proposal and literature review. Your proposal should state the concrete problem or question your paper will address, its relevance to American political development, your specific argument or hypothesis, and the evidence you will need to advance this argument or test this hypothesis. The literature review should discuss the relevant scholarly literature addressing your paper question. This discussion should establish what has been written about this topic before, how the question has been approached by others, what is known about this question, what remains to be learned, and what controversies exist in the literature. You will then explain how your paper will take the existing literature into account and contribute to it. This is not a book report. The point is to organize existing relevant work in a way that sets up your own paper and demonstrates why your paper is important, why it is needed, and how it advances an on-going conversation (or starts a new one). *Schedule an individual appointment* with me to discuss your proposal.

**Due**, November 26: Draft Paper Due.

**Final Paper due**, January 8. The final paper must be turned in to the Politics Department (not me) by 4:30 pm. Use 12-point font, double-spacing, and one-inch margins. Each page should be numbered. Use footnote citation method. Staple the pages (do not use plastic binding).

### Further Reading:

Some suggested starting points for further reading in American Political Development.

#### Presidency and Bureaucracy

Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make*

Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State*

Daniel Carpenter, *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy*

Jeffrey Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency*

Sidney Milkis, *The President and the Parties*

#### Congress

Elaine Swift, *The Making of an American Senate*

David W. Brady, *Critical Elections and Congressional Policy Making*

Charles Stewart III, *Budget Reform Politics*

Julian Zelizer, *Taxing America*

Richard Bense, *Sectionalism and American Political Development, 1880-1980*

#### Courts and Constitution

Robert McCloskey, *The American Supreme Court*

Howard Gillman, *The Constitution Besieged*

John Gates, *The Supreme Court and Partisan Realignment*

Keith Whittington, *Constitutional Construction*

#### Parties, Organizations, and Elections

Martin Shefter, *Political Parties and the State*

James Sundquist, *Dynamics of the Party System*

Scott James, *Presidents, Parties, and the State*

John Gerring, *Party Ideologies in America, 1828-1996*

John Mark Hansen, *Gaining Access*

Victoria Hattam, *Labor Visions and State Power*

#### Public Policy

Margaret Weir, et al., eds. *The Politics of Social Policy in the United States*

Richard Bense, *The Political Economy of American Industrialization, 1877-1900*

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers*

Theodore Lowi, *The End of Liberalism*

Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter, eds. *Shaped by War and Trade*

#### Political Thought and Culture

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*

Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*

Rogers Smith, *Civic Ideals*

Richard Hofstadter, *The American Political Tradition*

#### Journals and Websites

*Studies in American Political Development*

*Journal of Policy History*

*Social Science History*

[www.h-net.msu.edu/~apsaph](http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~apsaph)

[www.americanpoliticaldevelopment.org](http://www.americanpoliticaldevelopment.org)

[www.h-net.msu.edu/~pol](http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~pol)