

American Political Development

Political Science 4105

Fall 2014

Baldwin 301

TTR 8:00-9:15am

Instructor: Anthony Madonna

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Course Description:

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize the student with American political history and development. The class will focus on the development of American political issues and institutions from the late 18th century through the 19th century. Throughout the semester, we will focus on topics including: the failure of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, the creation of American political parties, slavery, the Civil War and the development of House and Senate rules. Particular attention will be given to how these events influence policy-making in contemporary American politics.

Books and Readings:

The following books are required and can be purchased from amazon.com and at the Campus Bookstore:

Ellis, Joseph. 2001. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Ellis, Joseph. 2007. *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Holt, Michael F. 2004. *The Fate of Their Country*. New York, NY: Hill and Wang.

Students will not only be expected to have done the reading assignments, but should also be aware of relevant news stories. As such, I recommend reading a daily newspaper – such as the New York Times and/or the Washington Post – or at least checking cnn.com. Other political blogs that students may find useful include FiveThirtyEight, Political Wire, The Monkey Cage, The Upshot, Vox and the Drudge Report.

Some optional books you might want to consider purchasing can be found on amazon.com:

Aldrich, John H. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Mann, Robert. 1996. *The Walls of Jericho: Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Richard Russell, and the Struggle for Civil Rights*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.

Potter, David M. 1976. *The Impending Crisis: 1848-1861*. New York, NY: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc.

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

Additional readings will be posted on the course website. Many of these readings will be highly technical in nature. As such, students are not expected to understand all aspects of each paper. However, they will be held accountable for a basic understanding of the paper's theory and applications.

Course Grading:

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Class Attendance/Participation (10% of final grade):** One of the goals for this class is for students to become comfortable discussing congressional institutions, issues, events and research. Hence, class periods will be part lecture and part discussion. Students should be prepared to discuss the reading for the day with their classmates. Students will be given one point for attending the class, and an additional point for adequate participation. The lowest two attendance/participation grades will be dropped. A student's participation grade may also include several small quizzes or assignments.
2. **Midterm Exams (40% of final grade):** Two midterm exams will be given on Thursday, **September 25th** and Tuesday, **October 28th**. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. The midterm examinations will be non-cumulative. If a student is unable to take the exam on the scheduled date, they should contact the course instructor beforehand. A missed exam will only be excused for a documented illness (documentation must be provided by a physician) or a death in the family. If you are excused from an exam, your final exam will be weighted accordingly.
3. **Research Paper (30% of final grade):** Students will be expected to complete a research design proposal. The paper should be a maximum of 15 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, one inch margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font, Chicago style citations). Students will be allowed to choose the topic of their paper, provided it is related to American Political Development. The instructor will be available for consultation. The paper should feature a review of the relevant scholarly literature, a well developed theory, and a detailed discussion of a potential test of that theory. The paper is due Thursday, **December 4th** at 5:00 pm. Papers will be docked a full letter grade for each day they are late.

4. Final Exam (**20% of final grade**): The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, *December 16th* from 8:00 to 11:00 am and will be held in Baldwin 301. Like the midterms, it will feature a mix of multiple choice and short essay questions. The final exam will be non-cumulative.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows: 100-93 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 60-69 = D, and 60-0. Extra credit will not be given in this course.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to notify the instructor and the Office for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made.

Instructor Availability:

Students seeking to contact the instructor are encouraged to stop by during scheduled office hours. Students who are unable to attend office hours should e-mail ahead of time to ensure instructor availability.

Classroom Behavior:

Students should behave professionally throughout the course and disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes cell phone usage, excessive talking and derogatory or offensive comments made during discussion. Students will be held responsible for all material discussed or assigned.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will have their names forwarded to the University. It is each student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. Further information regarding academic honesty can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>.

Tentative Lecture Outline/Readings Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 19	Introduction/Syllabus	
Aug 21	What is American Political Development? Institutions Review	
Aug 26	Path Dependency Scaling	Pierson 2000 David 1985
Aug 28	<i>No Class</i>	
Sep 02	The Founding	American Creation, p. 3-57
Sep 04	Pivotal Voters	Dougherty and Heckelman (2006) Robertson (2006)
Sep 09	The Dinner Strategic Voting	Founding Brothers, Ch. 2 Clinton and Meirowitz (2004)
Sep 11	The Silence The First Parties	Founding Brothers, Ch. 3 Aldrich and Grant (1993)
Sep 16	Marbury v. Madison	Clinton (1994)
Sep 18	The Vice President in the Senate How to Write a Research Paper, Part 1	Lynch and Madonna (2010)
Sep 23	Committee Development	Gamm and Smith (1989) Jenkins (1998)
Sep 25	<i>Midterm 1</i>	
Sep 30	John Adams, Episode 1	
Oct 02	The Compromise of 1824	Jenkins and Sala (1998) Carson and Engstrom (2005)
Oct 07	Pandora's Box The Wilmot Proviso	Holt, Ch. 1 Holt, Ch. 2
Oct 09	The Compromise of 1850	Holt, Ch. 3 Theriatult and Weingast (2002)

Tentative Lecture Outline/Readings Schedule (cont):

Date	Topic	Reading
Oct 14	The Kansas-Nebraska Act The Election of 1860	Holt, Ch. 4 Jenkins and Morris (2006)
Oct 16	Parties in Congress	Cox and McCubbins (2002) Finocchiaro and Rohde (2008)
Oct 21	Parties in Congress (cont)	Jenkins (1999)
Oct 23	Supreme Court Tenure	Vining, Zorn and Smelcer (2006)
Oct 28	<i>Midterm 2</i>	
Oct 30	Lincoln	Binder (2012)
Nov 04	House Rules	Schickler and Rich (1997) Cox and McCubbins (1997)
Nov 06	House Rules, cont.	Binder (1996)
Nov 11	Civil Rights	Schickler, Pearson and Feinstein (2010) Jenkins, Peck and Weaver (2010)
Nov 13	Writing a Research Paper, Part 2	
Nov 18	Senate Rules	Wawro and Schickler (2004) Madonna (2011)
Nov 20	Senate Rules, cont.	Binder, Madonna and Smith (2007)
Nov 25	<i>No class—Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Nov 27	<i>No class—Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Dec 02	Congressional Leadership	Cooper and Brady (1981) Jenkins and Stewart (2003)
Dec 04	<i>Paper Due</i> Review	
Dec 16	<i>Final Exam</i>	

American politics and the American political system did not suddenly appear. It has evolved through a unique and complex convergence of READ MORE.Â Major Influences on American Constitutional Development. Influence of British Legal History. The American political system was obviously influenced by British legal history. The government of Great Britain is not based on a single written constitution. US Political Development in Comparative Perspective. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. Chapter 2. 5. Smith R.M. "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America." American Political Science Review. Vol. 87, 1993, no. 3, p. 549-566.Â Education policy. Required readings: Handout. Suggested readings: 1. Eisner M.A. The American Political Economy. Institutional Evolution of Market and State. London: Routledge, 2011. American political development (often abbreviated as APD) is a subfield of political science that studies the historical development of politics in the United States. In American political science departments, it is considered a subfield within American politics and is closely linked to historical institutionalism. Scholarship in American political development focuses on "the causes, nature, and consequences of key transformative periods and central patterns in American political history."