

HSTAA 590
AMERICAN POLITICAL AND POLICY HISTORY
University of Washington
Autumn 2013
Tuesday 3:30-5:20
<http://faculty.washington.edu/momara/HSTAA590.html>

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This is a graduate readings and discussion course considering some key texts and major debates in American political and policy history, with a particular focus on new directions in the field and multidisciplinary methodological approaches that fall under the broader umbrella of American Political Development (APD). Topics include: race, gender, and class in the construction of the state; grassroots activism; sociocultural politics; the role of religious and charitable organizations; market-government relations; federalism and regionalism; political communication; political biography; formal politics and the evolution of the two major political parties; and American state-building in comparative perspective.

READINGS

All in paperback and available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

David Waldstreicher, *In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820* (1997)
Brian Balogh, *A Government Out of Sight: The Mystery of National Authority in Nineteenth Century America* (2009)
Michael McGerr, *The Decline of Popular Politics: The American North, 1865-1928*
C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955)
Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow* (1993)
Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (1955)
Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States* (1991)
Gosta Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (1990)
Peter Baldwin, *The Politics of Social Solidarity: Class Bases of the European Welfare State, 1875-1975* (1992)
Jennifer Klein, *For All These Rights: Business, Labor, and the Shaping of America's Public-Private Welfare State* (2006)
Margot Canady, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America* (2011)
Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* (2001)
Christopher Howard, *The Hidden Welfare State: Tax Expenditures and Social Policy in the United States* (1999)

Required articles for this course can be found via the class website. For every week's subfield, I have listed recommended books that are considered important contributions to the historiography. You are not required to read these books for class but may use the list as a starting point in preparation of

bibliographies, exam reading lists, et al. However, if you have already read one of the books listed as **required** reading for a given week, you should choose a topically related book from the recommended list as a substitute for reading, write-up, and discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments in this course are intended to support your professional education and are designed so that they may be repurposed at a later date in your training or your career. Naturally, participation, completion of readings, and collegial and productive participation in discussion are weighed heavily. The requirements are:

1. To assist in close reading of the text and provide some framing questions for class discussion (as well as give you a written summary of each book for future use), every student will be responsible for posting a 400-500 word entry of **notes and questions on the week's assigned reading** on GoPost the night before class every week (including the first week). Notes should include a succinct restatement of each reading's main argument; your assessment of whether the author makes the argument successfully; and at least two meaty questions raised by this reading that you would like to see discussed in class. Keep archived copies of your GoPost entries so that you can consult them during exam preparation, etc.
2. At least once during the quarter, each student will serve as a **discussion leader** and co-teacher. Responsibilities of the discussion leader are to read and synthesize the major questions posed by colleague's GoPost entries that week, to map out a discussion facilitation plan in email consultation with the professor the morning of class, and to join the professor in leading discussion. You will sign up for discussion leadership on the first day of class.
3. Write a 4-page **book review** of one of the texts listed as additional reading on this syllabus, to be posted on GoPost. These reviews are designed to expose the group to a wider historiography as well as provide you with the opportunity to do additional reading in an area of particular interest. The reviews should be similar in length and content to those found in a refereed scholarly journal like the *American Historical Review*. You will sign up for a book review the first week of class. This can be submitted at any time during the quarter, and no later than the last class meeting.
4. Political historians often appear on the op-ed pages of local and national newspapers and media outlets, providing a balanced and historical perspective often lacking from most political punditry. Your assignment is to write an **800-1000 word op-ed** article that places a current political debate in historical perspective. This can be submitted at any time during the quarter, and no later than the last class meeting.
5. The end-of-term assignment is a **historiographic review essay** of about 3000 words focusing on one particular theme or subject area in political and policy history. You are encouraged to choose a topic that is relevant to your graduate training and to your future work; students from disciplines other than history can engage the scholarship in their field as well as relevant historiography. However, use this as an opportunity to stretch beyond your comfort zone and engage a field that is slightly outside of your main area of focus. I also encourage you to meet with me about your topic so that we can make sure your subject is neither too broad nor too narrow. As a linked component of this assignment, you should draw up a 1-2 page **bibliography** on your chosen thematic focus, and refer to these works in your review. Books on this list can

include those assigned in the course. The essay should be emailed to me by 5PM on the Friday of exam week.

Assignments are weighed as follows: engaged, rigorous, verbal class participation and GoPost 35%; discussion leadership 15%; book review 10%; op-ed 10%; final essay 30%.

Please note that most due dates are flexible so that you can accommodate other teaching and research demands. However, I strongly encourage you to manage your time wisely and not wait until the end of the quarter to submit all this work. Also be advised that I do not allow incompletes outside of truly extraordinary circumstances.

SCHEDULE

10/1 Defining political and policy history

Julian Zelizer, "Introduction" and "Beyond the Presidential Synthesis: Reordering Political Time," in *Governing America: the Revival of Political History* (2012)

"Special Issue: New Directions in Policy History," *Journal of Policy History* 17:1, pp. iii-154

10/8 Political histories of early America

David Waldstreicher, *In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820* (1997)

Richard Newman, "Protest in Black and White: the Formation and Transformation of an African American Political Community during the Early Republic," in *Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic* (2003)

Rosemarie Zaggarri, "Women and Party Conflict in the Early Republic," in *Beyond the Founders*

10/15 The American State in the Nineteenth Century

Brian Balogh, *A Government Out of Sight: The Mystery of National Authority in Nineteenth Century America* (2009)

Suzanne Mettler and Andrew Milstein, "American Political Development from Citizens' Perspective: Tracking the Presence of the Federal Government in Individual Lives Over Time," *Studies in American Political Development* 21 (Spring 2007), 110-130.

10/22 Populists and partisans

Michael McGerr, *The Decline of Popular Politics: The American North, 1865-1928* (1986)

Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (1955)

10/29 The South

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955)

Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow* (1993)

Joseph Crespino, "Mississippi as Metaphor: Civil Rights, the South, and the Nation in the Historical Imagination," in *The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism*, ed. Crespino and Lassiter (Oxford, 2010), pp. 99-120.

11/5 Progressive state-building

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States* (1991)

Paul Burstein, "Policy Domains: Organization, Culture, and Policy Outcomes," *Annual Review of Sociology* 17 (1991)

Hugh Heclo, "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment," in Anthony King, ed., *The New American Political System* [1st Edition] (Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute, 1978)

11/12 Welfare states

Gosta Esping-Andersen, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (1990)

Peter Baldwin, *The Politics of Social Solidarity* (1992)

Ann Orloff, "Gender in the Welfare State," *Annual Review of Sociology* 22 (1996), pp. 51-78.

11/19 Capitalism and corporations

Jennifer Klein, *For All These Rights: Business, Labor, and the Shaping of America's Public-Private Welfare State* (2006)

Richard White, "Information, Markets, and Corruption: Transcontinental Railroads in the Gilded Age," *The Journal of American History* 90:1 (2003), pp. 19-43

Louis Hyman, "Rethinking the Postwar Corporation: Management, Monopolies, and Markets," in *What's Good for Business*, ed. Kim Phillips-Fein and Julian Zelizer (Oxford, 2012)

11/26 Citizenship

Margot Canady, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America* (2011)

Mae Ngai, "The Strange Career of the Illegal Alien: Immigration Restriction and Deportation Policy in the United States, 1921-1965," *Law and History Review* 21:1 (2003), pp. 69-108

12/3 Suburban politics and state policy

Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* (2001)

Christopher Howard, *The Hidden Welfare State: Tax Expenditures and Social Policy in the United States* (1999)

David Freund, "Marketing the Free Market," in *The New Suburban History*, ed. Kevin Kruse and Thomas Sugrue (Chicago, 2006), pp. 11-32

12/13 FINAL ESSAY SHOULD BE EMAILED TO INSTRUCTOR BY 5:00 P.M.

Additional readings in American political and policy history

- Robert Self, *All in the Family: the Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s* (2013)
- David Freund, *Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America* (2010)
- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2005)
- Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920* (1982)
- Margaret Weir, Ann Shola Orloff, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *The Politics of Social Policy in the United States* (1988)
- Sven Beckert, *The Monied Metropolis, New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896* (2001)
- Alice O'Connor, *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History* (2001)
- Linda Gordon, *Pitied but not Entitled: Single Mothers and the History of Welfare* (1994)
- Ira Katznelson, *City Trenches: Urban Politics and the Patterning of Class in the United States* (1981)
- Lynn Hollen Lees, *Solidarities of Strangers: the English Poor Laws and the People, 1700-1948* (1998)
- Margaret Weir, *Politics and Jobs: The Boundaries of Employment Policy in the United States* (1992)
- Jacob Hacker, *The Divided Welfare State: The Battle over Public and Private Benefits in the United States* (2002)
- Stuart Brandes, *American Welfare Capitalism, 1880-1940* (1976)
- Sanford Jacoby, *Modern Manors: Welfare Capitalism since the New Deal* (1997)
- Paul Pierson, *Dismantling the Welfare State? Reagan, Thatcher, and the Politics of Retrenchment* (1993)
- Julian Zelizer, *Taxing America: Wilbur D. Mills, Congress, and the State* (1998)
- Jill Quadagno, *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty* (1994)
- Daryl Michael Scott, *Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996* (1997)
- Kathleen Paul, *Whitewashing Britain: Race and Citizenship in the Postwar Era* (1997)
- Edward Berkowitz, *Mr. Social Security – The Life of Wilbur J. Cohen* (1995)
- Colin Gordon, *Dead on Arrival: The Politics of Health Care in Twentieth Century America* (2003)
- Michael Brown, *Race, Money, and the American Welfare State* (1999)
- Michael Katz, *The Price of Citizenship: Redefining the American Welfare State* (2001)
- Kim Philips-Fein and Julian Zelizer, eds., *What's Good for Business: Business and American Politics Since World War II* (2011)
- Jeffrey Pasley, Andrew W. Robertson, and David Waldstreicher, eds., *Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic* (2003)