

# American Political Development

## Colgate University

### Class

POSC 314

Persson 113

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 12:20-1:10

### Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-12:00

Before it was a social science or a school of philosophy, the study of politics was about history. Since ancient times, the past was critical for understanding the present; without memory, the future looked strange and confusing. So it was when it came to the study and even the practice of politics: the greatest thinkers always knew that only the lessons of history could reveal certain developments, cycles, and trends that explain political life. A people who remember their story could see how they got to where they're at, discern the course of future events, and hopefully find a basis for wise decision-making. Above all, studying the historical development of things helps us become more than mere products of our time, making it an essential part of a truly liberal education. So it is for Americans: in this course will see what "the mystic chords of memory" have to offer political science. We will look at our political history, whether in the heights of government power in Congress and the presidency, or in the depths of our society and culture, especially in race, gender, and religion. Lastly, we will add up our national story and consider our own times in order to face the future with clarity and discernment.

### **Required Texts**

The following books are required for the class, in order of reading, along with various academic articles and primary sources:

Landy, Mark, and Milkis, Sidney. *Presidential Greatness*. Lawrence, KS: Kansas University Press, 2000.

Mayhew, David. *The Imprint of Congress*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.

Bayor, Ronald, editor. *Race and Ethnicity in America: A Concise History*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

Cobble, Dorothy Sue, Gordon, Linda, and Henry, Astrid. *Feminism Unfinished: A Short, Surprising History of American Women's Movements*. New York: Liveright, 2014.

Lambert, Frank. *Religion in American Politics: A Short History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Class grades will be based on the following:

- **Participation (10%)**. Come to class every day with the assigned readings done, and be ready to contribute to the discussion based on the assigned reading questions. There will also be short presentations on various legends and folklore on the presidency.
- **Five Quizzes (20% – 4% each)**. Short quizzes on particular sections of the class.
- **Final Exam (20%)**. An exam on the terms, basic concepts, and readings on the second half of the course, as well as major themes from the course as a whole. There will be a study guide.
- **Research Essay (40% – Phase I 5%, Phase II 5%)**. A research essay on a topic of your choice related to American Political Development. There will be a prompt, and it will be due in three phases.

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, or the use of someone else's text without quotes and proper citation, is considered a violation of the university's standards of academic integrity and will be grounds for serious disciplinary action. A first offense will be an F on the assignment; a second offense will be an F in the class and a referral to the Dean.

## Learning Services

If you have a disability that prevents you from doing as well as you could in this class, be sure to contact Lynn Waldman, Director of Academic Support and Disability Services, to discuss your specific needs and set up arrangements with the professor. Lynn's office is in the Center for Learning, Teaching and Research, and you can email her at [lwaldman@colgate.edu](mailto:lwaldman@colgate.edu), or call her at 315 228 7375.

## Course Outline

Students are required to read the following readings for each day of class. Discussion of each reading may vary depending on the lecture.

### I. Development of the Government

#### Week 2 – Political History and a Theory of Greatness

##### September 2

Introductory Readings

##### September 4

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 1

##### September 6

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 2 –  
George Washington

#### Week 3 – Greatness and the Republic

##### September 9

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 3 –  
Thomas Jefferson

##### September 11

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 4 –  
Andrew Jackson

##### September 13

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 5 –  
Abraham Lincoln

#### Week 4 – The Crisis of Greatness

##### September 16

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 6 –  
Franklin Roosevelt

##### September 18

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 7 –  
The Modern Presidency and the  
Absence of Greatness

##### September 20

*Presidential Greatness*, Chapter 8 –  
Conclusion

#### Week 5 – Congress Building and Maintaining the Republic

##### September 23

*Imprint of Congress*, Introduction;  
Chapter 1 – Impulses and  
Imprints

##### September 25

*Imprint of Congress*, Chapter 2

##### September 27

*Imprint of Congress*, Chapter 3

## Week 6 – Congress Modernizing America

### September 30

*Imprint of Congress*, Chapter 4

### October 2

*Imprint of Congress*, Chapter 5

### October 4

*Imprint of Congress*, Chapter 6-7

## II. Development of the American People

### Week 7 – Race and the Founding

#### October 7

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 1 – Carol Berkin, “Ethnicity in Seventeenth-Century English America, 1600-1700”

#### October 9

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 2 – Graham Russell Hodges, “Ethnicity in Eighteenth-Century North America”

#### October 11

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 3 – Marion R. Casey, “The Limits of Equality: Racial and Ethnic Tensions on the New Republic”

### Week 8 – Civil War and Reconstruction

#### October 14

Midterm Break – No Class

#### October 16

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 4 – Michael Miller Topp, “Racial and Ethnic Identity in the United States”

#### October 18

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 5 – Mae M. Ngai, “Race, Nation, and Citizenship in Late Nineteenth Century America”

### Week 9 – Race in Modern America

#### October 21

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 6 – Andrew Heinze, “The Critical Period: Ethnic Emergence and Reaction”

#### October 23

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 7 – Thomas A. Guglielmo and Earl Lewis, “Changing Racial Meanings: Race and Ethnicity in the United States”

#### October 25

*Race and Ethnicity*, Chapter 8 – Timothy J. Meagher, “Racial and Ethnic Relations in America”

### Week 10 – Feminism and Economics

#### October 28

*Feminism Unfinished*, Preface and Prologue; Dorothy Sue Cobble, “More than Sex Equality”

#### October 30

*Feminism Unfinished*, Preface and Chapter 1 – Dorothy Sue Cobble, “More than Sex Equality”

#### November 1

*Feminism Unfinished*, Preface and Chapter 2 – Linda Gordon, “The Women’s Liberation Movement”

### Week 11 – Feminism and Culture

#### November 4

*Feminism Unfinished*, Preface and Chapter 2 – Linda Gordon, “The Women’s Liberation Movement”

#### November 6

*Feminism Unfinished*, Preface and Chapter 3 – Astrid Henry, “From a Mindset to a Movement: Feminism since 1990”

#### November 8

*Feminism Unfinished*, Preface and Chapter 3 – Astrid Henry, “From a Mindset to a Movement: Feminism since 1990”

**Week 12 – Faith from Republic to Democracy**

**November 11**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Introduction

**November 13**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 1

**November 15**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 2

**Week 13 – Doubt and Resilience**

**November 18**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 3

**November 20**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 4

**November 22**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 5

**Week 14 – Religion on the Right, Religion on the Left**

**December 2**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 6

**December 4**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 7

**December 6**

*Religion in American Politics,*  
Chapter 8

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**Conclusion: Assessing our Times**

**Week 15 – Trumpism, The Woke, Identity Politics, #MeToo, “Nones,” and the Future**

**December 9**

Discussion

**December 11**

Discussion

**December 13**

Discussion