George Mason University Course Approval Form
Office of the Registrar
New__X_____ Modify_______ Delete_______

Department: Public and International Affairs            Course Abbrev/Number__GOVT 810

Prepared by:_Julianne Mahler, Dept. Public & International Affairs Ext: 3-1414

Full CourseTitle: American Political Development

Abbreviated Course Title (Inventory will only accommodate 24 characters):
Amer Polit Devel

Term First (new courses): F 2006 Course Level: GA
UL=Undergrad lower
UU=Undergrad upper
GF=Grad lower (500-600)
GA= Grad upper (700 +)

Credit Hours: (Fixed)__3__ (Var.)______ Catalog Format : (3:3:0)

Previous Course ID :_________________ Last Term Course will be Offered:______________

Repeatable for Credit: N
D=Yes, but not within same term (indicate max hrs) Up to:
T=Yes, within same term (indicate max hrs) (Maximum hours)
N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code 1: Sem
LEC=Lecture          LAB=Lab
Activity Code 2:        RCT=Recitation
STU=Studio           SEM=Seminart
IND=Independent Study

Prereq: GOVT 510

Approval:
Department or Program:______________________________ Date:__________________________

(Signature)

College Council:______________________________ Date:__________________________

(Signature- if applicable)

Graduate Council:*______________________________ Date:__________________________
(Signature - Provost or Graduate Council Representative)

*All courses numbered 500 or above must be forwarded to Graduate Council once approved at
the departmental or college level. OtR 11/99
Government 810: American Political Development

Professor Colleen Shogan, Robinson A 242

Email: cshogan@gmu.edu Office Phone: 703-993-1266

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the growing subfield of American Political Development, or APD. American Political Development is the study of the historical roots of American politics. It is an examination of political culture and the historical development of institutions in the United States. Likewise, APD is concerned with how laws and programs have been affected by historical and cultural development. How was the growth of the American state influenced by the political institutions that already existed? How has the welfare state developed in the United States, and why? Why and how did America’s administrative capacities grow at the turn of the century? Is the development of American political institutions constant, or sporadic? Are there patterns or cycles over time in American politics?

The class is designed to facilitate research on American institutions and historical development. We will be discussing student research projects throughout the semester. At the end of the course (Week 13), students will be responsible for a short 10-15 minute presentation of their research project. After the presentation, the class will be able to ask questions about the findings of the project.

The grading of the course is as follows:

Participation – (10%), weekly evaluations of readings/short papers (30%), Research Paper (60%)

This course will be run as a graduate seminar. By rotation, students will be responsible for directing the class by serving as discussion leaders for the reading assignments. Discussion leaders will turn in short papers (3 pages) on the days that they are responsible for leading the class.

The bulk of the grade for the course is a 20-30 page research paper on an original APD research project. The research paper may contain qualitative archival research or employ quantitative methods. Students should visit the Miller Center at the University of Virginia’s website on American Political Development to generate research ideas, or speak directly to me (http://www.americanpoliticaldevelopment.org/). It is important that students devise a research topic early enough in the course so that several months can be spent researching and writing. Students should also consult the following academic journals for published works in the subfield: Studies in American Political Development, Social Science History, and the Journal of Policy History.
Required Texts (ordered at GMU Bookstore):

James Morone, The Democratic Wish
Theda Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers
Sidney Milkis, The President and the Parties
Stephen Skowronek, Building the New American State
Stephen Skowronek and Karen Orren, The Search for American Political Development
Louis Hartz, The Liberal Tradition in America
Robert Dahl, Who Governs?
Richard Bensel, Yankee Leviathan: The Origins of Central State Authority in America, 1859-1877

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO APD AND POLITICAL CULTURE

Weeks 1 and 2: What is American Political Development?

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, Search for American Political Development


Weeks 3 and 4 American Political Culture

Louis Hartz, The Liberal Tradition in America


**Weeks 5 and 6: The Push for Democracy**

James Morone, The Democratic Wish

Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

**PART TWO: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATE**

**Week 7: The Early Origins of the State**

Richard Bensel, Yankee Leviathan: The Origins of Central State Authority in America, 1859-1877

**Weeks 8 and 9: The New Institutionalism and the State**

Stephen Skowronek, Building a New American State


**Week 10: The Decline of Parties, Growth of the Presidency, and State Expansion**

Sidney Milkis, The President and the Parties

**Weeks 11 and 12: Gender and the Growth of the Welfare State**

Theda Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers


**Week 13 Research Presentations**