University of Tokyo Hepburn Shibusawa Seminar
The American Constitutional Order: Conflicting Political Visions

This seminar provides an overview of the constitutional and political development of the United States from the nation’s origin to today. The framers of the U.S. Constitution agreed on many important innovations in governance, but the Constitution was also a compromise among powerful groups with very different views on economics, on slavery, on federalism, on governmental powers and purposes, and other topics. American constitutional development has since continued to be shaped by competing political visions, advanced by major parties and by social movements, about what the Constitution’s basic goals and principles are, what policies are appropriate, and in what ways the Constitution should be preserved or amended.

The seminar will also provided an immersion experience in American political and academic culture. Professor Smith will lecture at the start of each session to provide context and introduce the issues, but students will then discuss the content and persuasiveness of competing American constitutional visions.

Students should do the assigned readings in advance and e-mail Professor Smith (rogerss@sas.upenn.edu) a short, one or two paragraph reading response the evening before each day’s sessions. These should arrive in Professor Smith’s inbox by no later than 9 pm. The reading responses should not be summaries of the readings, and they do not need to discuss all the readings for each session. Instead, they should be critical reflections that make an argument concerning one or more of the readings: what do you agree and disagree with and why? What, if anything, seems important in the reading? What seems wrong? What seems not to make sense? Professor Smith will write replies and will also use your comments to guide class discussions so that your thoughts and concerns are addressed. Because we meet twice a day, each evening’s reading responses can discuss readings from either of the sessions for the next day, or for both. But each student must write responses to at least one reading for each day. On the first day and as we proceed, students should feel free to suggest changes in the syllabus to make it more responsive to their interests and needs.

We will meet twice a day, except for July 29th, when we will meet once, as Professor Smith will participate in a special symposium that day. Grades will be based on reading responses, class discussion, and a paper of roughly 15 double-spaced pages due September 10th.
All required readings can be found in Isaac Kramnick and Theodore J. Lowi, *American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology*, except for Barack Obama, *The Audacity of Hope* and his speech “A More Perfect Union.”

**July 28th: The Colonial and Founding Eras**

i). 10:20-12:00: From God’s English Subjects to American Citizens


ii). 13:10-14:50: From the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution

**Required:** The Declaration of Independence, 151-154.
The Federalist Papers, 191-243.

**Recommended Reading:** Kramnick and Lowi, xxv-xxxix, 1-9.

**July 29: 10:20-12:00: The Birth of Parties: Hamiltonian Federalist v. Jef­fersonian Republicans**


**Recommended:** R. Smith, *Civic Ideals*, 137-196.

**July 30: The Age of Jackson and the Civil War**

i) 10:30-12:00: Jackson and the White Democratic Republic

**Required:** Andrew Jackson, “Bank Veto Message; Farewell Address,” 427-443.
Daniel Webster, “Speech on Jackson’s Veto,” 443-447.
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self Reliance,” 471-476.


**Required:** Frederick Douglass, “What to the Salve is the Fourth of July?” 594-598.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments; Address to the New York State Legislature,” 529-535.
Abraham Lincoln, “Speech on the Dred Scott Decision; New Haven Address; Addresses to Congress; Gettysburg Address; Second Inaugural Address,” 654-660, 667-668, 676-685.

Recommended: R. Smith, Civic Ideals, 197-346.

August 2: Late 19th Century Inegalitarian and Egalitarian Visions

i). 10:20-12:00: The Rejection of Racial and Economic Equality

Plessy v. Ferguson, 942-946.


Recommended: Smith, Civic Ideals, 347-409.

August 3: The Progressive and New Deal Eras

i) 10:20-12:00: The Progressive Reformers: Contrasting Social and Political Visions

Required: John Ryan, “A Living Wage,” 1001-1002.

ii). 13:10-14:50: The Battle over the New Deal

Required: H. Hoover, “Rugged Individualism; Challenge to Liberty,” 1137-1144.
Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Speech at Oglethorpe University; Commonwealth Club Speech; The Four Freedoms; A Second Bill of Rights,” 1164-1179; 1187-1191.

August 4: From the Civil Rights Era to the Reagan Revolution

i) 10:20-12:00: The Cold War, Civil Rights, and the Great Society

Daniel Bell, “The End of Ideology,” 1277-1280.
SDS, “Port Huron Statement,” 1290-1301.
Martin Luther King, Jr., “I have a Dream,” 1317-1321.

ii) 13:10-14:50: The Rise of the New Right

Phyllis Schlafly, “The Power of the Positive Woman,” 1406-1411,
Milton and Rose Friedman, “Free to Choose,” 1411-1426.
Pat Robertson, “A Portrait of America,” 1464-1471.

Recommended: Lowi, The End of Liberalism, 67-294,

August 5: American Philosophy and Politics in the Age of Obama

i) 10:20-12:00: Currents in Contemporary American Political Philosophy


ii) 13:10-14:50: The Democratic Pragmatism of Barack Obama

Required: Barack Obama, The Audacity of Hope, 71-100 (“Our Constitution”),
227-269 (“Race”).
Barack Obama, “A More Perfect Union”


August 6: Concluding Reflections and Research Presentations

i) 10:20-12:00: Japanese Reflections on American Constitutional Development

Required: YOUR THOUGHTS.

ii) 13:10-14:50: Presentation and discussion of PhD projects.