This seminar follows, but is independent from, the class of the same title (G8236y) taught in the spring 2016 that focused on the meaning and consequences of the United States having been born free, born slave, and born a state. Here, we center on two connected aspects of American political development: the character of the United States as a distinctive modern state and the ways the country has dealt with what Alexander Hamilton called national exigencies.

The core of the class consists of focused conversations based on careful, timely reading. Students take turns to introduce these discussions on a rotating basis. All students participate in setting the class agenda by circulating a one-page, single-spaced thought piece the evening before each class (posted to an email distribution list) that identifies a particularly significant and vexing textual issue. These written contributions are not individually graded; rather, they form part of each student's course portfolio.

This term, members of the spring 2016 APD seminar will write an article length essay that builds on the proposal written for that class. Others will compose a proposal for further study joined to a tight literature review (limited to twenty double-spaced pages). These assignments will be discussed in detail early in the semester. They will be due on December 8.

Attendance at the 'Workshop on Politics and Society' that will be meeting on three Thursdays from 4.10-6pm is strongly encouraged, as the focus this academic year is on democratic emergencies, a theme central to our class. Course readings are on reserve in Lehman Library. Office hours will be conducted by appointment on Mondays from 4.15-5.45pm.

**Syllabus**

**September 12: Introduction**

Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," and Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, "On the Road Toward a More Adequate Understanding of the State," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985, chapters 1 and 11


September 19: Analytical Concept


J.P. Nettl, "The State as a Conceptual Variable," World Politics, 20 (July 1968)


September 26: State Formation


October 3

No class: Rosh Hashanah holiday [individual meetings to discuss papers on October 5]

October 10: Democracy and War


Richard Franklin Bensel, Yankee Leviathan: The Origins of Central State Authority in America. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990, chapters 1, 3, 6, 7

October 17: Progressive Era Statebuilding

Stephen Skowronek, Building a New American State. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982 (select as cases chapters 3 and 6, or chapters 4 and 7, or chapters 5 and 8)


October 24: The Military in a Liberal State


October 31: A Crusading State?


**November 14: Exigencies and Exceptions (1)**

*The Federalist*, 23-29


**November 21: Exigencies and Exceptions (2)**


Clinton Rossiter, “Constitutional Dictatorship in the Atomic Age,” *Review of Politics*, 11 (October 1949), pp.87-95


**November 28: Exigencies and Exceptions (3)**


**December 5**

No class

**December 12**

Class Mini-Conference (2-6pm)