This is a seminar about the first Reconstruction, dating to the end of the Civil War. We will examine many of the central questions relating to this important epoch in American history. Leading themes will include Black enfranchisement; constitutional change; the concept of constitutional failure; executive and congressional powers; and the role of the courts, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court, as a member of the national coalitions of its day. This is a course that will interest students of American history, constitutional law, American political development, Democracy and voting rights, and/or race.