

1991

American Political Thought Syllabus

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POL 346

AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Dr. Samson

LUB 206

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 MW, 10-11 TH

Phone: 7935

DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to introduce students to the sources and development of American political thought from the colonial period up until the present. First, we examine the classical and Christian influences that shaped the Western intellectual tradition that accompanied the early European settlers who crossed the Atlantic. The distinctly American contributions to this tradition will be given special attention. Second, we study the development of American political thought as a practical response to the demands of nation-building during the 19th and 20th centuries. The course will conclude with student presentations and a discussion of recent trends.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for assigned readings and should keep a looseleaf notebook for class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Reading assignments must be completed before the class meets.
3. Attendance is required. One week's absence may be excused for good cause. Each week's absence after the first will result in the loss of one grade point.
4. Students will be tested on their knowledge of reading and discussion material through three essay exams.
5. The remainder of the grade will be determined by three writing assignments:
 - A 4-6 page report on one of the books listed below (due February 8);
 - A 4-6 page bibliographic essay on a selected American political thinker based on a careful examination of at least one major work and a brief review of several other works (due March 13); and
 - A 6-8 page original paper on a topic approved in advance (due April 10). This paper may be consolidated with the bibliographic essay if it is clearly related. Be prepared to present your paper in class during the last two weeks.

READING LIST

Textbooks [*Purchase]

- *Grimes, Alan Pendleton. American Political Thought. [G]
 - Hall, Verna M. The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States of America, vol. 1. [H]
 - *Kirk, Russell. The Portable Conservative Reader. [K]
 - *Levy, Michael B. Political Thought in America. [L]
 - Mason, Alpheus Thomas. Free Government in the Making. [M]: Reserve Desk
- Supplementary Readings [S]: Blue Notebook at Reserve

Desk

Book Reports [Reserve Desk]

Barr, Stringfellow. Voices That Endured. [Black Notebook]
Kirk, Russell. The Roots of American Order, chs. 1-8.
Tinder, Glenn. Political Thinking. [Orange Notebook]

SCHEDULE

FIRST WEEK: INTRODUCTION (January 9-14)

Bruce L. Shelley, The Gospel and the American Dream, chs. 3-4; Rushdoony, "The Importance of the Law," Institutes of Biblical Law, pp. 1-14; Rushdoony, Christianity and the State, chs. 1-2.

SECOND WEEK: CALVINISM (January 16-21)

G. 1-45; L. 1-37; M. 62-63; H. 253-61; Cotton, "Abstract of the Laws of New England."

THIRD WEEK: ENGLISH REVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT (January 21-23)

G. 46-65; M. 22-44; H. 42-47, 126-30.

FOURTH WEEK: AMERICAN REVOLUTION (January 25-30)

G. 66-97; L. 38-91; M. 80-110; Amos, "Government by the 'Consent of the Governed.'"

FIFTH WEEK: AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONALISM (February 1-6)

G. 98-127; M. 44-49 (Montesquieu); Lutz, "Origins of American Constitutionalism;" Sandoz, "Reflections on Spiritual Aspects of the American Founding."

SIXTH WEEK: FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS (February 8-15)

G. 128-73; L. 93-164; M. 264-67; K. 49-66, 78-112; Rushdoony, Nature of the American System, ch. 2.

FIRST EXAM: February 15

SEVENTH WEEK: THE EARLY REPUBLIC (February 18-25)

G. 174-99; L. 165-215, 272-305; K. 131-54, 183-202, 267-91; Crockett, "Not Yours to Give;" Blumenfeld, Is Public Education Necessary?; Samson, "Christianity in Nineteenth Century American Law."

EIGHTH WEEK: REFORM AND SLAVERY (February 27-March 6)

G. 200-61; L. 216-71; K. 214-18.

NINTH WEEK: SECTIONALISM AND NATIONALISM (March 8-13)

G. 262-86; L. 306-17; K. 155-80.

TENTH WEEK: THE GILDED AGE (March 25-29)

G. 287-353; L. 319-44, 350-69, 382-85; K. 325-40; Montgomery, "Political Poison; Juilliard v. Greenman, Field dissent.

SECOND EXAM: April 3

ELEVENTH WEEK: THE PROGRESSIVE ERA (April 1-8)

G. 354-442; L. 391-435; K. 340-59, 435-80; Burgess, Recent Changes in American Constitutional Theory.

TWELFTH WEEK: LEFT AND RIGHT (April 10-12)

G. 443-510; L. 436-490; Portland Declaration

THIRTEENTH WEEK: WINDOW ON THE WORLD (April 15-19)

L. 496-571

FOURTEENTH WEEK: WRAP-UP (April 22-24)

K. 644-709.

THIRD EXAM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Barr, Stringfellow. Voices That Endured: The Great Books and the Active Life. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1971.
- Bloom, Allan. The Closing of the American Mind. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987.
- Bork, Robert H. The Tempting of America: The Political Seduction of the Law. New York: Free Press, 1990.
- Burgess, John W. Recent Changes in American Constitutional Theory. New York: Columbia University Press, 1923.
- Burnham, James. Suicide of the West: An Essay on the Meaning and Destiny of Liberalism. New York: John Day Company, 1964.
- Cooper, James Fenimore. The American Democrat. New York: A. Knopf, 1931.
- Cord, Robert L. Separation of Church and State: Historical Fact

- and Current Fiction. New York: Lambeth Press, 1982.
- Corwin, Edward S. Constitutional Revolution, Ltd. Claremont, CA: 1941.
- Curti, Merle. The Growth of American Thought, 3rd ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1964 [1943].
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- Institutions of the United States, Developed in the Official and Historical Annals of the Republic.
Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1864.
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Washington: University Press of America, 1982 [1978].
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- Weaver, Richard M. Ideas Have Consequences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948.
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- _____. Society and Thought in Modern America: A Social and Intellectual History of the American People from 1865. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1952.

AMERICAN POLITICAL THINKERS

Brooks Adams
Henry Adams
John Adams
John Quincy Adams
Samuel Adams
Fisher Ames
Hannah Arendt
Irving Babbitt
Isaac Backus

George Bancroft
Charles A. Beard
Daniel Bell
Edward Bellamy
Adolph A. Berle
Edward Bernays
W. D. P. Bliss
Allan Bloom
Jonathan Boucher
Randolph Bourne
Louis Brandeis
Orestes Brownson
William Jennings Bryan
William F. Buckley, Jr.
John W. Burgess
James Burnham
John C. Calhoun
Henry Seidel Canby
Henry Carey
Matthew Carey
Andrew Carnegie
William Ellery Channing
Frank Chodorov
John Bates Clark
James Fenimore Cooper
Edward S. Corwin
John Cotton
Ralph Adams Cram
Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crevecoeur
Herbert Croly
Robert L. Dabney
Donald Davidson
Dorothy Day
Eugene V. Debs
Daniel De Leon
Lawrence Dennis
John Dewey
John Dickinson
Frederick Douglass
Peter Drucker
W. E. B. DuBois
Jonathan Edwards
T. S. Eliot
Richard T. Ely
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Stephen J. Field
John Fiske
George Fitzhugh
John T. Flynn
Felix Frankfurter
Benjamin Franklin
Betty Friedan
Milton Friedman
J. K. Galbraith

William Lloyd Garrison
Marcus Garvey
Henry George
Elbridge Gerry
William J. Ghent
Washington Gladden
Nathan Glazer
Emma Goldman
Barry Goldwater
Samuel Gompers
Paul Goodman
Madison Grant
Alexander Hamilton
Learned Hand
Michael Harrington
Nathaniel Hawthorne
George Herron
Morris Hillquit
Eric Hoffer
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.
Sidney Hook
Thomas Hooker
Herbert Hoover
William Dean Howells
Andrew Jackson
Robert H. Jackson
William James
Thomas Jefferson
James Kent
Russell Kirk
Joseph Wood Krutch
Robert LaFollette
Richard Henry Lee
Daniel Leonard
Francis Lieber
Abraham Lincoln
Walter Lippmann
Henry Demarest Lloyd
Henry Cabot Lodge
Jack London
James Russell Lowell
John Lukacs
J. Gresham Machen
James Madison
Malcolm X
Horace Mann
Herbert Marcuse
John Marshall
Luther Martin
George Mason
Cotton Mather
Increase Mather
Jonathan Mayhew
C. Wright Mills

Thomas Molnar
James Monroe
Paul Elmer More
Lewis Henry Morgan
Felix Morley
Jedidiah Morse
Samuel F. B. Morse
Reinhold Niebuhr
Robert Nisbet
Albert Jay Nock
George W. Norris
Theodore Parker
William Paterson
U. B. Phillips
Wendell Phillips
John Randolph of Roanoke
Walter Rauschenbusch
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Theodore Roosevelt
Elihu Root
Murray Rothbard
Rousas John Rushdoony
George Santayana
Judith Shklar
Thomas Sowell
Lysander Spooner
Lincoln Steffens
Lothrop Stoddard
Joseph Story
Josiah Strong
Thomas Szasz
William Graham Sumner
George Sutherland
Roger B. Taney
Frederick Winslow Taylor
John Taylor of Caroline
Norman Thomas
Henry David Thoreau
Benjamin R. Tucker
Frederick Jackson Turner
Thorstein Veblen
Eric Voegelin
Lester Frank Ward
Nathaniel Ward
Josiah Warren
Booker T. Washington
George Washington
Richard Weaver
Noah Webster
Daniel Webster
Walt Whitman
Roger Williams
Rene de Visme Williamson
James Wilson

Woodrow Wilson
John Winthrop
John Wise
John Witherspoon
Karl Wittfogel
John Woolman
Frances Wright
Robert Yates