

Political Science 415
Spring 2008
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Earl Sheridan
Office: Leutze Hall, Rm 269
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00am Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
Other Times by Appointment

Course Objectives

To examine the philosophical basis and development of American political institutions and ideals. We will be tracing the evolution of such basic American political ideas as freedom, equality, democracy, individualism, property, and the separation of church and state from the colonial period to the present. We will be looking at these ideas through the eyes of American political thinkers such as: Jefferson, Hamilton, Calhoun, Lincoln, the Roosevelts, Reagan, M.L. King, and many others.

Texts

Kenneth M. Dolbeare, American Political Thought; Richard Hofstadter, The American Political Tradition; E.L. Doctorow, Ragtime

Also, on reserve in the library are:

The Liberal Tradition in American Thought, Walter E. Volkmer, ed.
The Conservative Tradition in American Thought, Jay A. Sigler, ed.
Civil Ideals, Rogers Smith

There are also other readings on reserve.

Course Requirements

Three exams worth 100 points each. One 8 page research paper worth 50 points. 50 points to be assigned on the basis of attendance, participation and pop tests. This will add up to 400 points which will be divided by 4 to get your final grade.

The research paper should be type-written, double-spaced and should include footnotes and a bibliography. The paper should be on some aspect of American political thought. It may be an analysis of an individual's political thought, or of the political thought of a political movement, or an examination of a concept, like liberty, equality, or democracy. It is to your advantage to pick a topic that is not too broad. All topics should be approved by the instructor.

Attendance

Attendance is taken. You have **3** unexcused absences. For each absence beyond that 5 points will be deducted from your participation grade. Excused absences only granted with written official documentation. If you come to class after roll is taken it is your responsibility to make sure you are counted present by seeing me that day. *You are expected to be in class on time and remain for the whole class period unless you get sick or have made prior arrangements with me.*

Grading

Grading will be as follows: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B, etc.

Keys to Success

- 1.) Come to class!
- 2.) Read assigned readings
- 3.) Participate (discuss, ask questions, listen)

Course Outline (Be sure to read the introductory material in each part of Dolbeare.)

- I. Introduction – Liberalism, Conservatism, and Radicalism in America.** (Dolbeare); Introduction; (Smith); Chapter 1.

- II. The Political Philosophy of the American Revolution**
Readings: Dolbeare, Introduction to Part 1 (pp. 1-14)
John Wise and John Winthrop (Dolbeare) Chapter 1
Ben Franklin - (Dolbeare) Chapter 3
Sam Adams – (Dolbeare) Chapter 4
Paine – (Dolbeare) Chapter 5
Jefferson – The Declaration of Independence (Dolbeare) Chapter 6
Hofstadter – Chapter 2
Smith – Chapters 2, 3, 4

- III. Federalism and The Constitution**
Readings: Dolbeare, Chapter 8-11, 12
Hofstadter – Chapter I; “Race and the Constitution” – Thurgood Marshall (handout).
Smith – Chapters 5 & 6

- IV. Anti-federalism and Jeffersonian Republicanism**
Dolbeare, Chapter 13; Smith Chapter 7

FIRST EXAM

- V. Jacksonian Democracy:**
Readings: Hofstadter – Chapter III; James Kent (Sigler) pp. 115-119
Buel (Volkomer) pp. 140-147; Smith Chapter 8

- VI. The Individual and the State:**
Readings: Thoreau – (Dolbeare) Chapter 16; Introd. To Part II (pp. 166-173); Stanton (Dolbeare) Chapter 17

- VII. Slavery and the Nature of the Union**
Readings: Calhoun – (Dolbeare) Chapter 19; Hofstadter, Chapter IV
Fitzhugh – (Dolbeare) Chapter 20
Garrison – “Fourth of July Address, 1929”, pp. 11-21; “Opening Statement of the First Issue of the Liberator,” pp. 22-23; “No Union With Slaveholders” (1844), pp. 52-55, F. Douglas (Dolbeare) Chapter 18
Hofstadter – Chapter VI

Lincoln (Dolbeare) Chapter 21; Letter to Horace Greely, Aug. 22, 1962, 1962 in The Life and Writings of Abraham Lincoln. pp. 718-719; Address on Colonization, pp. 715-718 in *Ibid*.

Hofstadter – Chapter V; Smith Chapter 9, 10

VIII. The Gilded Age

Readings: Summer – (Dolbeare) Chapter 21; Intro. To Part III, Dolbeare (pp. 248-260); Sigler, pp. 231-246

Bellamy (Volkomer) pp. 226-234; Dolbeare, Chapter 22 and 23

Populist Party Platform (Volkomer) pp. 235-240

Hofstadter – Chapter VII and VIII

B.T. Washington – The Atlanta Exposition Address

Black Elk (Dolbeare) 29; Smith 11

SECOND EXAM

IX. Progressivism and Radicalism

Readings: (Dolbeare) Chapter 2, 30, 33; (Dolbeare) Introd. To Part IV, pp. 320-328

Hofstadter – Chapters IX and X

Doctorow – Ragtime

Smith, 12

X. The New Deal

Readings: Hoover – (Sigler) pp. 320-329

Hofstadter – Chapter XI

Dewey Liberalism and Social Action (1935); Roosevelt (Dolbeare), Chapter 38;

Hofstadter XII

XI. Post – World War II

Dolbeare – Intro. To Part V (pp. 421-429)

Goldwater (Sigler) pp. 362-370

Galbreath (Volkomer) pp. 321-327

M.L. King “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (Dolbeare) Chapter 40

Malcolm X (Hamilton) pp. 165-170; excerpts from Autobiography

One Dimensional Man – Marcuse (excerpt); (Dolbeare) 3, Friedan (Dolbeare) Chapt. 34

Dolbeare Chapter 42, 44, 48, 49; Dolbeare Part VI

FINAL EXAM – THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008 (3:00-6:00pm)