Political Science 5025/6025: American Political Thought
First Summer Session 2006, T/TH 9 am-12 pm, OSH 233

This course will survey the history of political, religious, and social thought in the United States from the arrival of English speaking peoples until the 1960s through an exploration of writings, speeches, and letters. Despite the span of three hundred and fifty years, several themes unite these diverse readings. The most important are the constant attempts to tie personal morality to public life and to reconcile the individualism of Protestantism and capitalism with the egalitarian ideals of democracy. We will flesh out these themes by exploring how political structures are understood to provide for self-development, how different understandings of the individual provide for differing conceptions of social mobility, and the connection between political and spiritual freedom. Throughout the course, we will examine these topics through texts relating to the following issues: the relationship of religion and culture to political action; the importance of private property, economic prosperity, and educational opportunity; and political, cultural and economic inequalities based on race and gender.

Required books for this course:
The vast majority of our readings are found in David A. Hollinger and Charles Capper, eds. The American Intellectual Tradition: (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005 Fifth Edition), Vols. I and II. Additional readings, denoted by an asterisk (*), are on reserve at Marriott Library and through electronic reserve.

Course Requirements:
The format of this course will require a great deal of reading and participation in classroom discussion. Each student will be required to deliver a brief oral presentation about an author of an assigned reading; there will be a sign-up sheet our first day of class. Undergraduates are required to submit three short (4-5 page) essays. Graduate students are responsible for these papers, plus a significant research paper, which they should discuss with me as early as possible. Student participation in class discussion will be a large portion of your final grade, and attendance is mandatory (as participation is difficult without it). Students may miss one class without excuse. All other absences for reasons other than documented illness will result in a lower participation grade. I expect that you will complete ALL of the assigned reading BEFORE the class for which it was assigned and reserve the right to call on anyone at anytime.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Assigned</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Undergrad</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Essay</td>
<td>June 3</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
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<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>June 27</td>
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<td>Research paper</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
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Non-negotiable Policy on Late Papers, Unsubmitted Work and Incompletes: Papers will be accepted until 5 pm on the date due. I will lower a paper grade one full grade if you submit a paper due on a date for which you have an unexcused absence. Late papers will lose one full grade if submitted within a week of due date; after a week, papers will not be accepted. Failure to complete any assignment will result in failure of the entire course. A grade of incomplete is only available in cases of documented emergency at the semester's conclusion.

Academic Misconduct: All quotes must be cited as such and include a clear reference to the work from which they were drawn; they will otherwise be treated as plagiarism. References other than course materials must be accompanied by full citations. All work in this course is assigned as individual work. Group work may be treated as cheating, as is all but the most casual assistance from others, including family members. If you intend to submit a paper which significantly draws upon work for another class, you must first receive explicit permission to do so from both myself and the other instructor. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and other disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the University.

All work must be submitted both in hard copy and through www.turnitin.com; instructions for submitting work through www.turnitin.com will be provided with the first assignment.

Accommodation of Sincerely Held Beliefs: I will work with students who require schedule changes due to religious or other significant obligations. I will not consider any requests based on course content. Because American politics includes many debates over race, sexuality, obscenity, religious practice and belief, and political ideology, any class that did not address such issues would be substantially limited. Students are required to attend all classes and to read all assignments. All assignments and lectures are related to our subject matter, and I do not include gratuitously salacious material. If you have any objection to the frank and open discussion of any of the topics above, including the use of adult language when appropriate to subject matter, please drop the class.

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice: Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should provide reasonable prior notice to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements. Written material in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification.

The Course of Reading and Instruction will be as follows:

**May 16 - Divine Grace, Self-Betterment, and Good Works**
- Cotton Mather, from *Bonifacius*, I, 51
- Benjamin Franklin, Selection from the *Autobiography*, I, 100

**May 18, 23 - The Revolution and Constitution: Grievances and Resolutions**
- John Adams, *Dissertation on Canon and Feudal Law*, I, 113
- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, I, 123
- Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*, I, 132
- Brutus, Selection from "Essays of Brutus," I, 141
- James Madison, *The Federalist Papers* Nos. 10 and 51, I, 154
- John Adams, "Letters" (to Samuel Adams and Thomas Jefferson), I, 170
- Thomas Jefferson, "Letters" (to John Adam), I, 191
May 23, 25 - The Second Great Awakening, Transcendentalism, and Perfectionism
James Grandison Finney, "What a Revival of Religion Is," I, 236
John Humphrey Noyes, from the *Berean*, I, 247
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Divinity School Address," "Self-Reliance," I, 342
Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government," I, 402

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<th>First Essay</th>
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<th>Due June 1</th>
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May 30 - Free Labor, Slavery and Union
John C. Calhoun, from *A Disquisition on Government*, I, 442
George Fitzhugh, from *Sociology for the South*, I, 465
Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July," I, 493

June 1 -- Pragmatism, and Science, as American Philosophy
Charles Peirce, "The Fixation of Belief," II, 15
William James, "The Will to Believe," II, 63
William James, "What Pragmatism Means," II, 154
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Natural Law," II, 197
Richard Rorty, “Science as Solidarity,” II, 488
Carl Sagan, from *The Demon Haunted World*, II, 535

June 6 - Progressivism and Liberalism
Jane Adams, "The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements," II, 121
Woodrow Wilson, "The Ideals of America," II, 140
Walter Lippman, From *Drift and Mastery*, II, 165
Randolph Bourne, "Trans-National America," "Twilight of Idols," II, 170
Thurman Arnold, from *Symbols of Government*, II, 239
John Courtney Murray, from *We Hold These Truths*, II, 353

June 8 - The Cold War
Reinhold Niebuhr, from *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness*, II, 279
Whittaker Chambers, from *Witness*, II, 329
Hannah Arendt, "Ideology and Terror," II, 342
Daniel Bell, "The End of Ideology in the West," II, 361
Samuel Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations,” II, 528

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<th>Second Essay</th>
<th>Assigned June 8</th>
<th>Due June 15</th>
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June 13 - Race: An American Dilemma
  W.E.B. DuBois, "Our Spiritual Strivings," II, 148
  Gunnar Myrdal, Selection from An American Dilemma, II, 270
  Martin Luther King, Jr., from "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," II, 414
  Malcolm X, from "The Ballot or the Bullet," II, 438
* Booker T. Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address”

June 15 - A Woman's Place
  Judith Sargent Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes,” I, 162
  Margaret Fuller, from Woman in the Nineteenth Century, I, 382
  Margaret Mead, from Coming of Age in Samoa, II, 211
  Betty Friedan, from The Feminine Mystique, II, 422
  Nancy Chodorow, “Gender, Relation and Difference,” II, 476
* Gloria Steinem, “If Men Could Menstruate”

June 20 - The Perils of Prosperity
  Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," II, 54
  Thorstein Veblen, from The Theory of the Leisure Class, II, 126
  Henry Adams, "The Dynamo and the Virgin," II, 96
  Aldo Leopold, from The Sand County Almanac, II, 294
  Herbert Marcuse, from One Dimensional Man, II, 446
* Daniel Bell, from The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism

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<th>Final Essay</th>
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<th>Due June 27 by noon</th>
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Please note: No essays will be accepted after 5 pm on June 30.

Graduate Research Papers Due July 25