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Tues: 12-1:30  
Thurs: 12-1:30  
or by appointment  
Summer 2006

## **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.**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Date Assigned</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Undergrad</b>	<b>Graduate</b>
<b>Participation</b>	includes class presentation		25%	15%
<b>First Essay</b>	June 3	June 10	25%	15%
<b>Second Essay</b>	June 12	June 19	25%	15%
<b>Final Essay</b>	June 20	June 27	25%	15%
<b>Research paper</b>		July 25		40%

**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](http://www.turnitin.com); instructions for submitting work through [www.turnitin.com](http://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  
Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," I, 65  
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  
Alexander Hamilton, "Constitutional Convention Speech on a Plan of Government," I, 135  
*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  
Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, "A Glimpse of Christ's Idea of Society", "Plan of the West Roxbury Community," I, 368  
Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government," I, 402

<b>First Essay</b>	<b>Assigned May 25</b>	<b>Due June 1</b>
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**May 30 - Free Labor, Slavery and Union**

- William Lloyd Garrison, from *Thoughts on African Colonization*, "Prospectus of *The Liberator*," I, 255  
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  
Abraham Lincoln, "Speech at Peoria, Illinois", "Address Before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society; "Address Delivered at the Dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg, "Second Inaugural Address," I, 507

**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  
John Dewey, *Philosophy and Democracy*, II, 202  
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

<b>Second Essay</b>	<b>Assigned June 8</b>	<b>Due June 15</b>
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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*

<b>Final Essay</b>	<b>Assigned June 20</b>	<b>Due June 27 by noon</b>
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**Please note: No essays will be accepted after 5 pm on June 30.**

**Graduate Research Papers Due July 25**