Political Science 5030: Modern American Political Thought  
Spring 2014, Tues/Thurs 3:40-5 PM, OSH 135

This course will survey political and social thought in the United States since the Civil War. Although not intended as a course in ideologies, our readings and discussions will explore the different schools of political thought during the last century. Our major themes will include the attempt to tie personal morality to public life and the attempt to reconcile the individualism with the egalitarian ideals of democracy. We will flesh out these themes by exploring how different understandings of the individual provide for differing conceptions of social mobility, the relationship of religion and culture to political action, the importance of private property, economic prosperity, and educational opportunity, and political, social and economic inequalities based on race and gender.

Required Materials:
Many of our readings will come from the single required text: Isaac Kramnick and Theodore J. Lowi, American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology, W.W. Norton, 2008 (ISBN: 978-039392886). This book is available at the Campus Bookstore. Additional readings are in Canvas, as designated, while other readings denoted as Web are linked through the Web version of this syllabus.

Course Requirements:
The format of this course will require a great deal of reading and participation in classroom discussion. There will also be four short (approx. 5 page) required papers. Guidelines for those papers are posted on Canvas. Student participation in class discussion will be a large portion of your final grade, and attendance is necessary. 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. I will circulate a seating chart during our second meeting.

The use of laptop computers and cellphones during class is strictly prohibited. For an explanation of this policy, please see here.

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<th>Participation</th>
<th>Assigned Date</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Paper</td>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>February 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Paper</td>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>March 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Paper</td>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>May 1 by 5 pm</td>
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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. All use of materials other than course materials must be accompanied by full citations. All work in this course is assigned as individual work; working as groups or teams is strongly discouraged (and may be treated as cheating), as is all but the most casual assistance from others; this includes spouses and other 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. Please note that you should keep a copy of your work. When working on a computer, always make a back-up; computer malfunction is not an excuse.

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 requests based on course content. Because the history of American politics has included many debates over race, sexuality, 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.

Policy on Late Papers, Unsubmitted Work and Incompletes: Papers will be accepted until 5 pm on the date due. Late papers will lose one stepped grade (i.e. B+ → B) if submitted within a week of date due; papers will not be accepted after a week. Failure to complete any assignment will result in failure of the course. A grade of Incomplete is only available in cases of documented emergency or medical condition. Papers must be submitted both in hard copy and through Canvas.

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:

Jan. 7, 9 - Introduction: Several Broad Themes
Thurgood Marshall, The Constitution’s Bicentennial, 1433
Allan Bloom, from The Closing of the American Mind, 1438
Michael Walzer, from What Does It Mean to Be an “American?, 1449
Pat Robertson, “A Portrait of America,” 1464
Canvas: Henry Adams, “The Dynamo and the Virgin”
Jan. 14, 16 - Pragmatism as 20th Century American Philosophy
William James, “Pragmatism: A New Name for Old Ways of Thinking,” 1024
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Natural Law,"
John Dewey, “The Influence of Darwin on Philosophy,” 1030; from Liberalism and Social Action, 1156
Richard Rorty, “A Cultural Left,” 1494
Canvas: William James, “The Moral Equivalent of War”
Alfonso Damico, from Individuality and Community
Daniel Malachuk, "Loyal to a Dream Country"

Jan. 21, 23, 28 - Progressivism
John Dewey, The Public and Its Problems, 1036
Herbert Croly, from The Promise of American Life, 1065
Theodore Roosevelt, “The New Nationalism,” 1086
Louis Brandeis, “The Living Law,” 1095; “Industrial Absolutism and Democracy,” 1099
Woodrow Wilson, "The New Freedom," 1102
Canvas: Eldon J. Eisenach, “Some Second Thoughts on Progressivism and Rights”

Jan. 30, Feb. 4, 6 - The Great Depression and the New Deal
Charles A. Beard, “The Myth of Rugged American Individualism,” 1147
Henry A. Wallace, “New Frontiers,” 1201
Walter Lippman, “Planning in an Economy of Abundance,” 1206
Canvas: Philip Abbott, from The Exemplary Presidency
Russell Hanson, from The Democratic Imagination in America

First Paper - Assigned Feb. 4, Due Feb. 13

Feb. 11, 13, 18 - Defining Americanism: Anticommunism and the 1960s
Reinhold Niebuhr, from The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness, 1211
Whittaker Chambers, from Witness, 1231
Louis Hartz, “The Concept of a Liberal Society,” 1247
C. Wright Mills, from The Power Elite, 1264; "Letter to the New Left," 1273
Daniel Bell, "The End of Ideology," 1277
Students for a Democratic Society, “The Port Huron Statement,” 1290
Mario Savio, “An End to History,” 1301

        Abbie Hoffman, “The Rising of the Pentagon”

Feb. 20, 25, 27 - Race: The American Dilemma
        Booker T. Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address,” 946
        Gunnar Myrdal, from An American Dilemma
        Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, “Statement of Purpose,” 1321
        Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet," 1322
        Stokely Carmichael, “Toward Black Liberation,” 1339
        Cornel West, from Race Matters, 1471

Canvas: Barack Obama, Speech on Race

Second Paper - Assigned Feb. 25, Due March 6

Spring Break - March 9-16

March 4, 6, 18 - A Woman's Place
        Betty Friedan, from The Feminine Mystique, 1344
        National Organization for Women, Bill of Rights,” 1350
        Redstockings Manifesto, 1351
        Kate Millett, from Sexual Politics, 1362
        Phyllis Schlafly, from The Power of the Positive Woman, 1404

Canvas: Gloria Steinem, “If Men Could Menstruate”
        Jane Addams, Why Women Should Vote,
        Margaret Sanger, excerpt from Woman and the New Race.

March 20, 25 - Conservatism: The Old Right
        William F. Buckley, from God and Man at Yale, 1228
        Barry Goldwater, from The Conscience of a Conservative, 1256
        Young Americans for Freedom, “The Sharon Statement,” 1281

Canvas: Russell Kirk, “Prescription, Authority, and Ordered Freedom”
        Francis Schaeffer, “The Abolition of Truth and Morality”
        John Whitehead, “Adam Redux”
        Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address

Third Paper - Assigned March 25, Due April 3
March 27, April 3- Unconventional Conservatives: Neo-Cons and Libertarians
   Irving Kristol, “Capitalism, Socialism, and Nihilism, 1381
   Robert Nozick, from Anarchy, State, and Utopia, 1391
   Milton Freedman, from Free to Choose, 1411
Canvas: Daniel Patrick Moynihan, “Dumbing Down Deviancy”
   Norman Podhoretz, “Neoconservatism: A Eulogy”
   Daniel Rodgers, “The Little Platoons of Society”

April 8, 10, 15- Contemporary American Liberalism and Communitarianism
   John Rawls, from A Theory of Justice, 1370
   Michael J. Sandel, “The Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism,” 1477
   Richard Rorty, “A Cultural Left,” 1494
   Amitai Etzioni, “Communitarianism and the Moral Dimension,” 1511
Canvas: Lyndon Baines Johnson, The Great Society
   Barack Obama, 2004 Democratic National Convention Address
   Robert Putnam, from Bowling Alone

April 17, 22- Culture and Politics in Modern America
   Thorstein Veblen, from The Theory of the Leisure Class, 1013
   Walter Lippman, from Public Opinion, 1058
   Jerry Rubin, A Yippie Manifesto, 1353
Canvas: Daniel Riesman, Nathan Glazer, from The Lonely Crowd
   Daniel Bell, from The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism

Final Papers assigned April 22. Due by 5 pm on Thursday May 1. NO late papers accepted after 5 pm on May 2. NO incompletes given without documentation of illness or family emergency and specific agreement regarding work completed and date thereby.