

– John Winthrop

“It has been frequently remarked, that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not, of establishing good government from reflection or choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend, for their political constitutions, on accident and force.”

– *Federalist* #1

Political Science 4080
American Political Thought
Fall 2017

Instructor: James Stoner
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00-4:30 pm; Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 am; and by appointment

Course Assistant: Thomas Cloud, Stubbs 232 (email: thomascloud1@gmail.com)

Course requirements:

Daily quizzes on the reading [20%]

Class attendance/participation/questions [noted, not graded]

Presentation (5 minutes) of an American Political Speech in class [10%] (speech to be presented on the day it is assigned for class; taped practice session due one-to-three school days ahead)

Paper (5 pages) on the writings of one author [20%] (outline and draft due one week after the author was assigned for class; final draft due one week after meeting with the instructor)

Midterm examination, Tuesday, 10/17 [20%]

Final examination, Monday, 12/4, [30%]

Communication Intensive Course

This is a certified Communication-Intensive (C-I) course which meets all of the requirements set forth by LSU's Communication across the Curriculum program, including

instruction and assignments emphasizing informal and formal writing and speech;
 teaching of discipline-specific communication techniques;
 use of feedback loops for learning;
 40% of the course grade rooted in communication-based work; and
 practice of ethical and professional work standards.

Students interested in pursuing the LSU Distinguished Communicators certification may use this C-I course for credit. For more information about this student recognition program, visit www.cxc.lsu.edu.

Honors Option: To receive Honors credit for this course, eligible students must, in addition to the assignments above, write a term paper of eight to ten pages on a topic developed in consultation with the instructor, worth the equivalent of the quizzes, with percentages adjusted.

Graduate Students: In addition to the reading below, please read the essay on each author we study in Bryan-Paul Frost and Jeffrey Sikkenga, editors, *History of American Political Thought* (Lexington Books, 2003) – or read Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (tr. Mansfield & Winthrop) – and write a fifteen-page paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. You must also take the quizzes and exams, but need not write a short essay or proclaim a speech.

Grading scale:

A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)
 B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)
 C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)
 D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)
 F (below 60%)

Books available for purchase:

Hamilton, Madison, Jay, [9780451528810]	ed. Rossiter & Kesler (Signet)
Johannsen, ed.	(Oxford) [9780195339420]
Johnson, Washington, DuBois, [9780380015818]	, ed. Franklin (Avon)
Kramnick & Lowi, eds., [9780393928860]	(Norton)

Recommended:

Yarbrough, ed., *The Essential Jefferson* (Hackett) [9780872207479]
 Dionne & Reid, eds,
 (Bloomsbury) [9781635570915]
 Skinner et al., eds., (Free Press) [9780743201230]

Website: A course website is available on Moodle. Materials listed below as “on-line” will be accessible on Moodle as links.

SYLLABUS:

Tues., 8/22 Introduction

I. THE FOUNDING

Thurs., 8/24 Christian Commonwealth

John Winthrop, "Model of Christian Charity" (1630);
 Winthrop, "Defence of an Order of Court" (1637);
 Winthrop, "Little Speech on Liberty" (1639);
 John Cotton, "An Exposition Upon Revelations 13" (1639);
 Nathaniel Ward, "The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam in America" (1646);
 Mayflower Compact (1620);
 An Ordinance and Constitution of the Virginia Company (1621);
 Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company (1629),
 in *American Political Thought [APT]*, pp. 11-25, 27-31, 73-80
 Michael Drayton, "To the Virginian Voyage" [on-line]

Tues., 8/29 Religious Toleration

Roger Williams, "The Bloody Tenent of Persecution" (1644);
 John Wise, "A Vindication of the Government of New England
 Churches" (1717);
 Jonathan Mayhew, "A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and
 Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers" (1750);
 Benjamin Franklin, "The Way to Wealth" (1758);
 William Penn, "Preface to the First Frame of Government for
 Pennsylvania" (1682), in *APT*, pp. 25-27, 31-60, 80-83

Thurs., 8/31 The Crisis of the British Empire

James Otis, "The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted & Proved" (1764);
 Samuel Adams, "The Rights of the Colonists" (1772);
 Jonathan Boucher, "On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-
 Resistance" (1774);
 John Adams, "Novanglus" (1775);
 Adams, "Thoughts on Government" (1776), in *APT*, pp. 100-130
 Thomas Jefferson, "Summary View of the Rights of British America"
 (1774), in Yarbrough, *The Essential Jefferson*, pp. 3-17

Tues., 9/5 American Independence and the United States

Thomas Paine, "Common Sense" (1776);
 Paine, "The American Crisis I" (1777);
 Declaration of Independence (1776);
 Articles of Confederation (1777);
 Alexander Hamilton, Letter to James Duane (1780);
 Adams, "Defense of the Constitutions of the United States" (1787);
 Constitution (1787), in *APT*, pp. 131-91

- Thurs., 9/7 The Case for the Constitution: Reflection, Choice, and Science
 Hamilton, Madison, Jay, *The Federalist* (1787-88), ## 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 14-
 15, 23, 27, 31, 33, 35
- Tues., 9/12 The Case for the Constitution: Federalism & Separation of Power
 The Federalist, ##37-39, 45, 47-51, 55-56, 62, 70, 78, 84-85
- Thurs., 9/14 The Case Against the Constitution
 Jefferson, Letters on the Constitution

Jackson, Bank Veto Message (1832);
Jackson, Farewell Address (1837);
Daniel Webster, Speech on Jackson's Veto of the United States Bank Bill
(1832);
George Bancroft, "The Office of the People in Art, Government, and
Religion" (1835);
Orestes Brownson, "The Laboring Classes" (1840), in , pp. 395-407,
419-47, 451-64

Thurs., 9/28 American Individualism

James Fennimore Cooper, "The American Democrat" (1838);
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance" (1840);
Emerson, "Politics" (1849);
Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (1848);

- Tues., 10/10 Clarifying Principle: Popular Sovereignty or Equal Rights?
 Abraham Lincoln, "Speech at Peoria, Illinois" (1854);
 Lincoln, "Speech on the Dred Scott Decision" (1857);
 in *APT*, pp. 649-660
 Lincoln, Speech at Springfield, 6/16/58 ("House Divided");
 Douglas, Speech at Chicago, 7/9/58;
 Debate at Ottawa, 8/21/58, in *Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, pp. 14-74
- Thurs., 10/12 Principle and Compromise, War and Peace
 Debate at Galesburg, 10/7/58, in *Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, pp. 206-44
 Lincoln, Letter to Boston Republicans (1859);
 Address Before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society (1859);
 Cooper Union Address (1860);
 New Haven Address (1860);
 First Inaugural Address (1861);
 Address and Message to Congress (1861 & 1862);
 Gettysburg Address (1863);
 Second Inaugural Address (1865) in *APT*, pp. 660-685
 Frederick Douglass, "Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln" (1876) [on-line]

Tues., 10/17 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

[FALL BREAK]

III. RETHINKING AMERICAN REPUBLICANISM AND DEMOCRACY

- Tues., 10/24 Capitalism versus Socialism
 William Graham Sumner, "What the Social Classes Owe to Each Other" (1884);
 Sumner, "The Absurd Effort to Make the World Over" (1894);
 Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth" (1889);
 Russell H. Conwell, "Acres of Diamonds" (1891);
 Henry George, "Progress and Poverty" (1879);
 Henry Demarest Lloyd, "Wealth Against Commonwealth" (1894);
 Lester Ward, "Sociocracy" (1893) and "Plutocracy and Paternalism" (1895);
 William Jennings Bryan, The "Cross of Gold" Speech (1896) in *APT*,
 pp. 703-724, 730-747, 764-785, 809-815
- Thurs., 10/26 Women's Equality: Liberal and Radical
 Emma Goldman, "Anarchism: What It Really Stands For" (1907);
 Orestes Brownson, "The Woman Question" (1869);
 Victoria Woodhull, "On Constitutional Equality" (1871);
 Woodhull, "Principles of Social Freedom" (1871);
 Susan B. Anthony, Speech about her Indictment (1873);
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Women and Economics" (1898);
 Jane Addams, "If Men Were Seeking the Franchise" (1913), in *APT*, pp.
 818-828, 854-82

IV. LIBERALISM AND CONSERVATISM

Thurs., 11/16 The Cold War

Reinhold Niebuhr, "The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness: A Vindication of Democracy and a Critique of Its Traditional Defense" (1944);
 George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (1947);
 Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., "What Is Loyalty? A Difficult Question" (1947);
 William F. Buckley, Jr., "God and Man at Yale" (1951);
 Whittaker Chambers, "Witness" (1952);
 Learned Hand, "A Plea for the Freedom of Dissent" (1955);
 Walter Lippmann, "The Public Philosophy" (1955);
 Louis Hartz, "The Concept of a Liberal Society" (1955) in *APT*, pp. 1211-1256

Tues., 11/21 The Sixties

C. Wright Mills, "The Power Elite" (1956);
 Students for a Democratic Society, The Port Huron Statement (1962);
 Martin Luther King, Jr., "The Power of Nonviolence" (1957);
 King, Letter from Birmingham Jail (1963);
 King, "I Have a Dream" Speech (1963);
 Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet" (1964);
 Bayard Rustin, "From Protest to Politics" (1965);
 Stokely Carmichael, "Toward Black Liberation" (1966);
 Betty Friedan, "The Feminine Mystique" (1963);
 National Organization for Women, "Bill of Rights" (1967) in *APT*, pp. 1264-72, 1290-1301, 1305-51

[THANKSGIVING BREAK]

Tues., 11/28 Modern Conservatism

Irving Kristol, "Capitalism, Socialism, and Nihilism" (1973);
 Milton Friedman and Rose D. Friedman, "Free to Choose" (1980), in
APT, pp. 1381-1391, 1411-1426
Reagan in His Own Hand (radio addresses), pp. 3-15, 48-63, 254-272,
 291-297, 351-360, 375-385, 390-393

Thurs., 11/30 Modern Liberalism

Kate Millett, "