

PSCI 3054 American Political Thought

Fall 2014 MWF 1:00-1:50

Eaton Humanities 135

Instructor: Matthew Heller

Office: Ketchum 5

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

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Course Overview:

What does it mean to be an American Citizen? What relationship does citizenship have to political practice? And how has conflict among conceptions of citizenship shaped American politics? In this course we will investigate how various American political thinkers have addressed the question of citizenship, drawing on examples from throughout the history of the United States. Attention will be given to the influence the “American experience” had on shaping these arguments; with focus given to the role religion, labor/class, and liberty have played in shaping the US conception of citizenship.

Course Objectives:

- To be able to discuss the arguments of important figures in the development of American Political Thought and the United States
- Analyze these arguments and apply them to contemporary circumstances
- Construct and defend one’s own position regarding the nature of American citizenship

Course Requirements and Grading:

- 1) **Weekly reading analysis (30%)**-Each **Monday** at the beginning of class students will turn in a **one-two** (1-2) page analysis of **three** (3) readings assigned for the previous week. The readings selected for discussion is open to students, but must be drawn from at least **two different days’** readings. These analyses are more than reading summaries, though they are expected to address a major thesis of each reading and briefly summarize the argument offered to support that position. They will endeavor to place the selected readings in conversation with each other by identifying a common theme, issue, conclusion, value, etc., and then assessing ways in which the pieces support or oppose each other’s arguments and conclusions.
- 2) **Essay Topic Proposals (20%)**-Prior to turning in each essay, students will turn in a **one-two** (1-2) page proposal of their chosen paper topic. In this proposal, students will identify their contemporary issue of interest, the readings to be drawn on, and how those readings will be used in developing the defense of a position. These are due **Friday, October 3rd** and **Friday, November 21st**.
- 3) **Essays (50%)**-Two **five-seven** (5-7) page essays will be assigned during the course; due **Wednesday, October 22nd** and **the Final Exam Period (TBD)**. In these essays students

will apply the theories discussed in class to a contemporary political issue of their choosing. In the application of course materials to a new issue, students will demonstrate what is gained by this application for our understanding of what is at stake in the conflict, the possibilities for resolutions, or our understanding of the theories being used.

***** No computers will be permitted in class *****

***** There will be no extra credit offered in this course *****

***** No late assignments will be accepted *****

***** Any violation of the honor code will result in immediate failure of the course (see below for more detail regarding the honor code) *****

Texts:

There is one textbook assigned for this course. It can be found at the CU bookstore or online.

Kramnick, Isaac and Theodore J. Lowi, eds., *American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

University and Course Policies:

Disability accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on students' documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Religious observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students needing to miss class or exams for religious observances must inform the instructor during the first two weeks of the term. See http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religh.html

Classroom behavior: Students and faculty share responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this

preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Discrimination and harassment: The CU Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Further information and campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Honor code: All students of CU Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). More information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Excused absences: At the instructor's discretion, students may be given opportunities to make up points missed as the result of documented illnesses (with a dated note from a health care provider) or other emergencies, religious observances, or official university activities. Wherever possible, students should inform the instructor in advance of such absences in order to make necessary arrangements. Absences resulting from discretionary events (such as non-emergency health care, non-essential travel, etc.) cannot qualify as excused. Students are responsible for obtaining class notes and informing themselves about missed announcements that result from excused absences.

Course Schedule:

August 27th

- *Introduction: Toward an American Political Thought*

August 29th

- John Winthrop *A Model of Christian Charity*
- John Winthrop *Defence of an Order of Court*
- John Winthrop *Little Speech on Liberty*
- John Cotton *An Exposition Upon the 13th Chapter of the Revelations*
- Roger Williams *The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution*
- Nathaniel Ward *The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam*

September 1st

- **Labor Day-No Class**

September 3rd

- John Wise *A Vindication of the Government of New England Churches*
- Jonathan Mayhew *A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers*
- Cotton Mather *A Christian at His Calling*
- Benjamin Franklin *The Art of Virtue*
- **Analysis 1 due**

September 5th

- Benjamin Franklin *Information to Those Who Would Remove to America*
- *The Mayflower Compact*
- *An Ordinance and Constitution of the Virginia Company*
- *Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company*
- William Penn *Preface to the First Frame of Government for Pennsylvania*
- *The North Carolina Biennial Act*
- *New Hampshire Assembly on Choosing a Speaker*

September 8th

- James Otis *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved*
- Jonathan Boucher *On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance*
- John Adams *Novanglus*
- John Adams *Thoughts on Government*
- **Analysis 2 due**

September 10th

- Thomas Paine *Common Sense*
- Thomas Paine *The American Crisis, I*
- Thomas Jefferson *Declaration of Independence*

September 12th

- *Articles of Confederation*
- Alexander Hamilton *Letter to James Duane*
- *The Constitution of the United States*

September 15th

- John Adams *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*
- Alexander Hamilton *Federalist 1: Introduction*
- James Madison *Federalist 10: The Same Subject Continued*

- Alexander Hamilton *Federalist 23: The Necessity of a Government at Least Equally Energetic with the One Proposed*
- James Madison *Federalist 39: The Conformity of the Plan to Republican Principles: An Objection in Respect to the Powers of the Convention Examined*
- **Analysis 3 due**

September 17th

- James Madison *Federalist 51: The Same Subject [the Separation of Powers] Continued with the Same View and Concluded*
- Alexander Hamilton *Federalist 70: The Same Subject [the Real Character of the Executive] Continued in Relation to the Unity of the Executive, with an Examination of the Project of an Executive Council*
- Alexander Hamilton *Federalist 78: A View of the Constitution of the Judicial Department in Relation to the Tenure of Good Behavior*
- Alexander Hamilton *Federalist 84: Concerning Several Miscellaneous Objections*

September 19th

- Thomas Jefferson *Letters on the Constitution*
 - To James Madison
 - To David Humphreys
- Richard Henry Lee *Letters from the Federal Farmer*
- Robert Yates *Essays of Brutus*

September 22nd

- Patrick Henry *Debate in the Virginia Ratifying Convention*
- James Madison *Address to the House of Representatives on Amending the Constitution*
- *The Bill of Rights*
- **Analysis 4 due**

September 24th

- Alexander Hamilton *Opinion on the Constitutionality of the Bank*
- Alexander Hamilton *Report on Manufactures*
- Thomas Jefferson *Opinion on the Constitutionality of the Bank*
- George Washington *Farewell Address*

September 26th

- John Marshall *Marbury v. Madison*
- John Marshall *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- Thomas Jefferson *Letter to Judge Spencer Roane*
- Thomas Jefferson *Notes on the State of Virginia*

September 29th

- Thomas Jefferson *First Inaugural Address*
- Thomas Jefferson *A Bill of Establishing Religious Freedom*
- Thomas Jefferson *Second Inaugural Address*
- Thomas Jefferson *Selected Letters*
 - To Reverend James Madison
 - To William S. Smith
 - To James Madison
 - To John Adams
- **Analysis 5 due**

October 1st

- Frances Wright *Of Existing Evils, and Their Remedy*
- John R. Cooke and Abel P. Upshur *Debate in the Virginia Constitutional Convention*

October 3rd

- John Quincy Adams *First Annual Message to Congress*
- Andrew Jackson *Veto of Maysville Road Bill*
- Roger B. Taney *Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge*
- Andrew Jackson *Farewell Address*
- George Bancroft *The Office of the People in Art, Government, and Religion*
- **Proposal 1 due**

October 6th

- James Fenimore Cooper *The American Democrat*
- Ralph Waldo Emerson *Self-Reliance*
- Ralph Waldo Emerson *Politics*
- **Analysis 6 due**

October 8th

- Henry David Thoreau *Resistance to Civil Government*
- Henry David Thoreau *Life without Principle*
- Walt Whitman *Democratic Vistas*

October 10th

- Abigail Adams *Letter to John Adams*
- Judith Sargent Stevens Murray (Constantia) *On the Equality of the Sexes*
- Angelina Grimké *Letter to Catharine E. Beecher*
- Catharine Beecher *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton *The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*

October 13th

- Benjamin Rush *An Address...Upon Slave Keeping*
- William Lloyd Garrison *The Liberator*
- William Ellery Channing *Slavery*
- Theodore Dwight Weld *Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses*
- **Analysis 7 due**

October 15th

- Frederick Douglas *What Are the Colored People Doing for Themselves?*
- Frederick Douglas *Lectures on Slavery*
- George Fitzhugh *Cannibals All! Or Slaves Without Masters*
- John C. Calhoun *Speeches on Slavery*
 - Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions
 - Speech on the Importance of Domestic Slavery

October 17th

- **NO CLASS-Assignment to be determined**

October 20th

- John C. Calhoun *A Disquisition on Government*
- Abraham Lincoln *Speech at Peoria, Illinois*
- Roger B. Taney *Dred Scott v. Sanford*

October 22nd

- Abraham Lincoln *Speech on the Dred Scott Decision in Springfield, Illinois*
- Abraham Lincoln *Letter to Boston Republicans*
- Abraham Lincoln *Cooper Union Address*
- Abraham Lincoln *New Haven Address*
- Abraham Lincoln *First Inaugural Address*
- Abraham Lincoln *Address to Congress*
- Abraham Lincoln *Gettysburg Address*
- Abraham Lincoln *Second Inaugural Address*
- **First Essay due**

October 24th

- William Graham Sumner *What Social Classes Owe to Each Other*
- William Graham Sumner *The Challenge of Facts*
- William Graham Sumner *Consolidation of Wealth: Economic Aspects*
- Andrew Carnegie *The Gospel of Wealth*

October 27th

- Henry George *Progress and Poverty*
- Henry Demarest Lloyd *Wealth Against Commonwealth*
- Thomas E. Watson *The Negro Question in the South*
- **Analysis 8 due**

October 29th

- Emma Goldman *Anarchism: What It Really Stands For*
- Eugene V. Debs *Unionism and Socialism*
- Susan B. Anthony *Speech About Her Indictment*
- Jane Addams *If Men Were Seeking the Franchise*

October 31st

- Josiah Strong *Our Country*
- Theodore Roosevelt *The Winning of the West*
- Henry Cabot Lodge *Speech on a Literacy Test for Immigrants*
- *Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League*
- *Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments*
- Chief Joseph, Crazy Horse, and Smohalla *On Work and Property*

November 3rd

- Henry Brown and John Marshall Harlan *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- Booker T. Washington *Atlanta Exposition*
- W. E. B. Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folk*
- Langston Hughes *Let America Be America Again*
- **Analysis 9 due**

November 5th

- Lincoln Steffens *the Shame of the Cities*
- Monsignor John Ryan *A Living Wage*
- Jane Addams *The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets*
- Thorstein Veblen *The Theory of the Leisure Class*
- William James *Pragmatism: A New Name for Old Ways of Thinking*

November 7th

- John Dewey *The Public and Its Problems*
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. *Natural Law*
- Walter Lippman *Public Opinion*

November 10th

- Herbert Hoover *The Challenge of Liberty*
- Herbert Hoover *The Fifth Freedom*

- Charles A. Beard *The Myth of Rugged American Individualism*
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt *First Inaugural Address*
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt *A Second Bill of Rights*
- **Analysis 10 due**

November 12th

- Walter Lippman *The Public Philosophy*
- Reinhold Niebuhr *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness: A Vindication of Democracy and a Critique of Its Traditional Defense*
- Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. *What is Loyalty? A Difficult Question*

November 14th

- William F. Buckley, Jr. *God and Man at Yale*
- Whittaker Chambers *Witness*
- Learned Hand *A Plea for the Freedom of Dissent*
- Louis Hartz *The Concept of a Liberal Society*

November 17th

- C. Wright Mills *The Power Elite*
- Robert A. Dahl *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. *Letter from Birmingham Jail*
- **Analysis 11 due**

November 19th

- Martin Luther King, Jr. *I Have a Dream*
- Malcolm X *The Ballot or the Bullet*
- Bayard Rustin *From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement*

November 21st

- Stokely Carmichael *Toward Black Liberation*
- Betty Friedan *The Feminine Mystique*
- Kate Millett *Sexual Politics*
- **Essay Proposal 2 due**

November 24th

- **Fall Break**

November 26th

- **Fall Break**

November 28th

- **Fall Break**

December 1st

- John Rawls *A Theory of Justice*
- Robert Nozick *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
- **Analysis 12 due**

December 3rd

- Michael J. Sandel *The Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism*

December 5th

- Amitai Etzioni *Communitarianism and the Moral Dimension*

December 8th

- Cornel West *Race Matters*
- bell hooks *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center*
- **Analysis 13 due**

December 10th

- Michael Walzer *What Does It Mean to Be an "American"?*

December 12th

- Alan Bloom *The Closing of the American Mind*

Final Exam Period-TBD

- **ESSAY 2 DUE**