

American Political Thought
PSCI 3054-001
11-11:50 MWF
CLRE 207
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Janet Donovan
Office hours: 8:45-9:45 Mon, 11-12 Tues
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This syllabus is subject to amendment. Students will be notified if amendments are made.

Course description: This course traces major themes in American Political Thought from the Colonial Period through the present, by reading and evaluating the works of key American political thinkers, and putting their ideas into historical and political perspective. In the course, we will use various means of understanding and evaluating these works, including lecture, discussions, a semester paper, reading quizzes and midterm and final exams.

Using the readings, we will trace the development and changes in core principles of American democracy over time, including liberty, equality of opportunity, property and religious ideals. We will also trace the importance of liberalism and conservatism as political philosophies for articulating these principles (please keep in mind that “liberalism” and “conservatism” are used in this course in their philosophical meanings, not their common meanings in politics today).

The readings and concepts explored in this course are difficult, and students will need to carefully complete the reading assignments before class, come to class on a regular basis and take good notes, and participate fully in discussions and online activities in order to be successful in the course. Students should expect to spend an average of 6 hours per week outside the classroom working on the course. There is an average of 60 pages of reading per class period, though this varies. It is recommended that students have taken the prerequisite PSCI 2004: Survey of Western Political Thought prior to this course. Students having trouble should make an effort early on to come to office hours and ask questions, and address ways of improving course performance. All students are welcome and encouraged to come to office hours.

The course text was chosen for its comprehensive selection of writings, speeches and documents that have influenced the development of American political thought, and indeed, the way Americans think. The text offers some context to these writings, but additional context will be provided in lecture as well.

This is a political theory course. This course is approved for the old arts and sciences core curriculum: United States context or ideals and values. This course may also be applicable to the new distributed core; please see your academic advisor for questions regarding whether this class fulfills your degree requirements.

Course objectives:

- 1) Learn about key ideas and concepts in American Political Thought by reading primary texts from influential thinkers
- 2) Trace core principles of American democracy over time—liberty, equality of opportunity, property, religious ideals
- 3) Examine the importance of the dominant political philosophy of liberalism, and the interplay of liberalism and conservatism, in defining and articulating these core principles
- 4) Critically examine the ways in which these core principles and political philosophies have shaped the development of our political system, and how Americans think.

Grading and scale:

Midterm exam	20	93-100	A
Reading quizzes	10	90-92	A-
Online Activities	10	88-89	B+
Paper	25	83-87	B
Final Exam	20	80-82	B-
Attendance	15	78-79	C+
Total	100	73-77	C
		70-72	C-
		60-69	D
		≤ 59	F

Required Text:

Isaac Kramnick and Theodore Lowi, eds. *American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology*. Norton: New York. ISBN-13: 978-0-393-92886-0

Course Requirements:

Midterm exam: All students must take the midterm exam in class. The exam will be given in 2 parts on Friday, October 12 and Monday, October 15. The exam will consist of a combination of term identifications and essay questions. More information on the format of the exam will be given later in the semester, and a study guide will be provided. The exam is worth 25 points of the final grade and is required to receive a passing grade in the course. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of documented medical or family emergency, religious observances or university absences related to participation in university-sanctioned activities. If it is physically possible, the instructor must be notified in advance of such an emergency. All make-ups are at the instructor's discretion and would be in a different format than the original.

Reading quizzes: We will have at least 8 reading quizzes over the course of the semester, worth 2 points each. Only 5 quizzes will count toward the final grade, with the lowest scores being dropped, for a total of 10 points for the semester. These quizzes are unannounced pop quizzes, with the purpose of holding students accountable for completing the readings before class begins. There are no make-ups for reading quizzes.

Online Activities: We will conduct two online activities at the beginning of November that are designed to engage students in understanding shifts in American political thought in the 20th century. These activities will also help prepare students for the paper that is due at the end of the month. The two activities are valued at 5 points each, for a total of 10 points. There will be no class meetings on November 2 & 5 to accommodate these activities. Additional information will be provided later in the semester.

Paper: Each student will choose from a list of topics and complete a 4-5 page paper, double-spaced, in a standard font with 1" margins. The paper must include a bibliography, which does not count toward the page requirement. More information on the paper will be given later in the semester. The paper is worth 25 points of the final grade, and is required to receive a passing grade in the class. The paper must be submitted online on Fri, November 30. Students are responsible for the electronic document being readable. Late papers will receive a 1 point deduction per day.

Final exam: All students must take the final exam at the assigned time of Sunday, December 16, 7:30-9pm. The final will consist of term identifications and essay questions. One essay question will be comprehensive; the rest of the exam will cover material since the midterm. More information on the format of the exam will be given later in the semester. The exam is worth 25 points of the final grade and is required to receive a passing grade in the course. Make-up finals will be given only in cases of documented medical or family emergency, religious observances or university absences related to participation in university-sanctioned activities, or with documentation of a final exam time conflict in accordance with CU policy. Again, if it is physically possible, the instructor must be notified in advance of such an emergency. All make-ups are at the instructor's discretion and would be in a different format than the original.

Attendance: Students are required to attend class regularly for the entire class period. Only documented medical or family emergencies, religious observances or university absences related to participation in university-sanctioned activities will be excused. A ½ point will be deducted for each unexcused absence, which may include coming to class late or leaving early. If physically possible, the instructor must be notified in advance of an expected absence. Whether or not an absence is excused is at the discretion of the instructor. All students may miss one class period without excuse or penalty. Attendance is valued at 15 points of the final grade.

Course policies:

Course communications: Email is the official mode of communication for the University of Colorado at Boulder. Students are required to regularly check their university-registered email (at least every 48 hours) for updates regarding the course. Students are responsible for receiving any messages sent by the instructor to the class email list, or individually to the student. Students are responsible for ensuring that any email sent by the student to the instructor or TA is received. In addition, students are responsible for checking the D2L site for the course regularly.

Contacting the Instructor: Please feel free to contact me with questions about the course. The best ways to reach me are to come by office hours, or to email. You may also call my office phone, but that is a less efficient means of reaching me. I always answer email within 48 hours, so if you do not receive a reply, that means I did not get your email and you should try to contact me again. When addressing me, please address me in person or in email as Janet, Dr. Donovan or Professor Donovan.

Course Etiquette: Students are expected to come to class on time and stay the entire time. If it is necessary to come late or leave early, please let me know in advance. If your schedule does not permit you to be on time and in class on a regular basis, please take another course. Students are expected to be respectful of each other and of the instructor; lively debate is encouraged, but personal attacks are prohibited. These guidelines should be obvious, and they will help to make the course a more enjoyable experience for all. For more information on University requirements regarding classroom behavior please see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices, including computers, tablets and mobile phones, are prohibited in class. The use of these devices causes serious disruption in class and affects the learning of other students. Computers, phones and other devices must be turned off and put away during class. Exceptions to this policy are at the instructor's discretion.

University policies:

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please contact the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester to make any accommodations.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Reading Schedule:

Readings are to be completed BEFORE class on the assigned day.

Part I: Colonial Roots of American Political Thought, 1620-1760

Week 1: August 27, 29 & 31

Mon: Introduction to course, pass out syllabus

Weds: Colonial roots of APT

Readings: p. 1-23 (through Winthrop), p. 53-89 (begin with Franklin)

Fri: Political theory of the Revolution

Readings: p. 91-154

Part II: The Founding, 1760-1791

Week 2: September 3, 5 & 7

Mon: Labor Day, NO CLASS

Weds: The Constitution and its critics

Readings: p. 155-244 (through Federalist #84- skim Articles of Confederation and Constitution if familiar)

Fri: The Constitution and its critics (cont.)

Readings: p. 244-283

Week 3: September 10, 12 & 14

Mon: The Constitution and its critics (cont.)

Readings: p. 285-296

Part III: Democracy and Union, 1791-1865

Weds: The Federalist and Jeffersonian visions

Readings: p. 297-319 (through Hamilton), p. 323-358 (through Second Inaugural Address), p. 364-375 (through Jefferson)

Fri: The Federalist and Jeffersonian visions (cont.)

Readings: p. 364-375 (through Jefferson)

Week 4: September 17, 19 & 21

Mon: Jacksonian Democracy

Readings: p. 389-395 (through Adams) p. 407- 464 (begin with Wright)

Weds: Jacksonian Democracy (cont.)

Readings: p. 407- 464 (begin with Wright)

Fri: Individualism and Democracy

Readings: p. 465-505 (through Whitman)

Week 5: September 24, 26 & 28

Mon: Women in the Early Republic

Readings: p. 505-588 (begin with Adams, through Stanton)

Weds: Women in the Early Republic (cont.), Slavery and free labor

Fri: Slavery and free labor

Readings: p. 536-553 (through Garrison)

Week 6: October 1, 3 & 5

Mon: Slavery and free labor

Readings: p. 588-623

Weds: Slavery and free labor (cont.)

Readings: p. 624-686

Part IV: Capitalism, Individualism and Reform, 1865-1932

Fri: Social Darwinism, the Intellectuals and Populism

Readings: p. 687-747 (through George)

Week 7: October 8, 10 & 12

Mon: Social Darwinism, the Intellectuals and Populism (cont.)

Readings: p. 747-791 (through Donnelly)

Weds: Social Darwinism, the Intellectuals and Populism (cont.)

Readings: p. 796-815

Fri: MIDTERM EXAM in class, Part I

Week 8: October 15, 17 & 19

Mon: MIDTERM EXAM in class, Part II

Weds: Imperialism and Race

Readings: p. 893-941

Fri: Imperialism and Race (cont.)

Readings: p. 942-987

Week 9: October 22, 24 & 26

Mon: Imperialism and Race(cont.)

Weds: Voices of Dissent

Readings: p. 816-892 (through Twelve Southerners)

Fri: Voices of Dissent (cont.)

Week 10: October 29, 31 & November 2

Mon: The Progressive Era

Readings: p. 988-1052 (through Dewey)

Weds: The Progressive Era (cont.)

Readings: p. 1052-1113

Fri: Understanding 20th Century American Political Thought Online Activity- Part 1

Readings: available online (no class meeting)

Week 11: November 5, 7 & 9

Mon: Understanding 20th Century American Political Thought Online Activity- Part 2

Readings: available online (no class meeting)

Weds: The New Deal and its critics

Readings: p. 1115-1164 (through Dewey)

Fri: The New Deal and its critics (cont.)

Readings: p. 1164-1210

Part V: Leviathan and Liberalism, 1932-presentWeek 12: November 12, 14 & 16

Mon: The Cold War

Readings: p.1211-1263

Weds: The Cold War (cont.)

Fri: The 1960s: Social and cultural upheaval

Readings: p. 1264-1305 (through Savio)

FALL BREAK AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, no classes November 19-23

Week 13: November 26, 28 & 30

Mon: The 1960s: Social and cultural upheaval (cont.)

Readings: p. 1305-1369

Weds: The 1960s: Social and cultural upheaval (cont.)

Fri: Contemporary discourse

Readings: p. 1370-1426 (through Friedman), PAPER DUE on D2L

Week 14: December 3, 5 & 7

Mon: Contemporary discourse (cont.)

Readings: p. 1426-1476

Weds: Contemporary discourse (cont.)

Readings: p. 1476-1522

Fri: Contemporary discourse (cont.)

Week 15: December 10 & 12

Mon: Looking into political thought in the 21st century

Readings: TBA, available online

Weds: Drawing conclusions about American Political Thought

Fri: No class, reading day

FINAL EXAM Sunday, December 16, 7:30-9pm