

## AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Political Science 4080  
Louisiana State University

Spring 2016  
MWF 1:30-2:20pm  
Allen 123

“We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability.”  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

### INTRODUCTION

Introduction to American Political Thought  
Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963, pp. 1308-1317, APT)

### SELF AND SOCIETY IN COLONIAL IMAGINATION

John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630, pp. 11-17, APT)  
Nathaniel Ward, “The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam” (1645, pp. 27-31, APT)  
Roger Williams, “Mr. Cotton’s Letter Lately Printed” (1644, pp. 146-148, SRC)\*\*  
Roger Williams, “The Bloody Tenent of Persecution” (1644, pp. 25-27)  
John Wise, “A Vindication of the Government of New England Churches” (1717, pp. 31-42, APT)  
Benjamin Franklin, “The Way to Wealth” (1758, pp. 53-60, APT)  
Mayflower Compact (1620)  
William Penn, “Preface to the First Frame of Government for Pennsylvania” (1682, 80-83, APT)

### THINKING ABOUT REVOLUTION

Jonathan Mayhew, “A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers” (1750, pp. 43-52, APT)  
James Otis, “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted & Proved” (1764, pp. 100-107, APT)  
Jonathan Boucher, “On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance” (1774, pp. 113-118, APT)  
John Adams, “Thoughts on Government” (1776, pp. 124-130, APT)  
Abigail Adams, “Letter to John Adams” (1776, pp. 506-507, APT)  
Thomas Paine, “Common Sense” (1776, pp. 131-149, APT)  
Thomas Jefferson, “Declaration of Independence” (1776, pp. 151-154, APT)

### CONSTITUTION AND CONFLICT

The Articles of Confederation (1778, pp. 155-162, APT)  
Alexander Hamilton, “Letter to James Duane” (1780, pp. 163-170, APT)  
The Constitution of the United States (1787, pp. 171-181, APT)  
John Adams, “A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America” (1787, pp. 181-191)  
Publius, “Federalist Papers, Nos. 1, 9, 10, 51” (1787-1788)  
Richard Henry Lee, “Letters from the Federal Farmer” (1787, pp. 248-256, APT)  
George Washington, “Farewell Address” (1796, pp. 319-323, APT)

## MANIFEST DESTINY

Thomas Jefferson, "Second Inaugural Address" (1805, pp. 356-358, APT)  
Andrew Jackson, "State of the Union" (1830)\*  
Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View of Indian Affairs" (1879, pp. 928-940, APT)  
Chief Joseph, Crazy Horse, Smohalla, "On Work and Property" (? , p. 941, APT)

## SLAVERY AND AMERICAN ASPIRATIONS

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)\*

George Fitzhugh, "Cannibals All! or, Slaves Without Masters" (1857, pp. 636-643, APT)  
Roger Taney, *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857, pp. 644-647, APT)  
James Henry Hammond, "'Mud Sill' Speech" (1858, pp. 647-649, APT)  
John C. Calhoun, "Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions (1837, pp. 601-604, APT)

William Lloyd Garrison, "Declaration of Sentiments of the American Anti-Slavery Society" (1833, pp. 559-563)  
Angelina Grimke, "Appeal to the Christian Women of the South" (1836, pp. 572-577, APT)  
Theodore Dwight Weld, "Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses" (1839, pp. 577-581, APT)  
David Walker, "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World" (1829, pp. 581-588, APT)  
Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (1852, pp. 594-598, APT)  
Abraham Lincoln, "Speech at Peoria, Illinois" (1854, pp. 649-654, APT)

## INDIVIDUALITY, INDIVIDUALISM, AND FREEDOM

Angelina Grimke, "Letter to Catharine E. Beecher" (1837, pp. 510-514, APT)  
James Fennimore Cooper, "The American Democrat" (1838, pp. 465-471, APT)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance" (1840, pp. 471-476, APT)  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" (1848, pp. 529-533, APT)  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Address to the New York State Legislature" (1860, pp. 533-535, APT)

## AND THE WAR CAME

Mississippi Declaration of Secession (1861)\*\*  
Jefferson Davis, Farewell Address (1861)\*\*  
Abraham Lincoln, "First Inaugural Address" (1861, pp. 668-676, APT)  
Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" (1863, p. 683)  
Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address" (1865, pp. 684-685)

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Orestes Brownson, "The Woman Question" (1869, pp. 854-860, APT)  
Susan B. Anthony, "Speech About Her Indictment" (1873, pp. 869-871, APT)  
Jane Addams, "If Men Were Seeking the Franchise" (1913, pp. 877-882, APT)

## **CAPITALISM, SOCIAL DARWINISM, AND SOCIALISM**

William Graham Sumner, "The Absurd Effort to Make the World Over" (1894, 719-724, APT)  
Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth" (1889, pp. 730-737, APT)  
Edward Bellamy, "Looking Backward" (1889, pp. 747-764, APT)

## **NATIONALISM AND EMPIRE**

James H. Slater and James Z. George, "Speeches on Chinese Immigration" (1882, pp. 893-901, APT)  
Albert J. Beveridge, "The March of the Flag" (1898, pp. 915-919, APT)  
Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League (1899, pp. 919-921, APT)

## **CALLS FOR CHANGE: PROGRESSIVES**

Upton Sinclair, "The Jungle" (1906, pp. 993-1000, APT)  
Monsignor John Ryan, "A Living Wage" (1906, pp. 1001-1002, APT)  
Jane Addams, "The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets" (1909, pp. 1002-1007, APT)  
Walter Rauschenbusch, "Christianity and the Social Crisis" (1909, pp. 1007-1012, APT)  
Woodrow T. Wilson, "The New Freedom" (1913, pp. 1102-1113, APT)

## **CIVIL RIGHTS I: FINDING A STANCE**

Reconstruction Amendments (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment)  
Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address" (1895, pp. 946-950, APT)  
*Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)  
W.E.B. DuBois, "The Talented Tenth" (1903, pp. 964-969, APT)  
Marcus Garvey, "The True Solution of the Negro Problem" (1922, pp. 974-980, APT)

## **CIVIL RIGHTS II: EQUALITY AND MILITANT NON-VIOLENCE**

Hiram W. Evans, "The Klan's Fight for Americanism" (1926, pp. 980-985, APT)  
Langston Hughes, "Let America Be America Again" (1938)  
Lillian Smith, "When I Was a Child" (1949)  
Freedom Songs  
Martin Luther King, Jr., "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence" (1960)\*\*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream" (1963, pp. 1317-1321, APT)  
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Statement of Purpose (1960, pp. 1321-1322, APT)

## **CIVIL RIGHTS III: FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet" (1964, pp. 1322-1328, APT)  
Stokely Carmichael, "Toward Black Liberation" (1966, pp. 1339-1343, APT)  
Martin Luther King, Jr., "Showdown for Nonviolence" (April 16, 1968)\*\*  
Cornel West, "Race Matters" (1993, 1471-1476, APT)  
Students for Democratic Society, "Port Huron Statement" (1962, pp. 1290-1301, APT)

## CONSERVATISM

Allan Bloom, "The Closing of the American Mind" (1987, pp. 1438-1449, APT)

## FEMINISM

Betty Friedan, "The Feminine Mystique" (1963, pp. 1344-1349, APT)

bell hooks, "Feminist Theory from Margin to Center" (1984, pp. 1426-1433, APT)

Ellen Ruppel Shell, "In Praise of Downtime" (2012, pp. 1-3)\*\*

## REFLECTIONS

Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1973)\*\*

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (1955)\*\*

Wendell Berry, *Fidelity* (1993)\*

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### COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to achieve an understanding of American Political Thought. Our study is thematic, and surveys institutional, political, and social development in American political experience. Toward this end, we draw on a wide range of literature, including treatises, letters, speeches, poetry, songs, and essays.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reflection journal entries = 40%	Five 1-page reflections (8 pts each)
Midterm Exam = 15%	In-class, Monday, March 7
Unannounced quizzes = 25%	Five quizzes based on readings and lecture notes (5 pts each). Entirely unannounced.
Final Exam = 20%	7:30-9:30am, Tuesday, May 3, in Allen 123

### Grading Scale

A+ = 97-100  
A = 93-96  
A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 83-86  
B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79  
C = 73-76  
C- = 70-72  
D+ = 67-69  
D = 63-66  
D- = 60-62  
F = <60

LSU has a plus/minus grading scale for final course grades. Your course grade is based on five 1-page journal entries (40%), a midterm exam (15%), five pop quizzes (25%), and a final exam (20%). I will provide further instruction on the journal entries and expectations for writing. For each pop quiz, you will need a narrow Scantron and a pencil; *be prepared*. For the midterm and final exam, you will need a narrow Scantron and a Blue Book. Your final exam will be in Allen 123, **7:30-9:30am, Tuesday, May 3, 2016**. All late material will be penalized. I reserve the right to administer unannounced bonus quizzes.

#### **PRESENCE, READING, AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Your success in this class depends upon your consistent presence, participation, and integrity. College is about challenging yourself to learn, to think about what matters and about who you want to be. Those are difficult tasks, but tasks more than worth the effort. University life requires us to prepare, to think, and to be present. Presence is about much more than simply showing up to class. It is about sharing in the task of understanding and analysis. That said, showing up to class is an important prerequisite for success. Your classmates, and you, depend on your presence for success in university life.

Before each class period, you should read the assigned materials and thoughtfully consider their significance for our study. Our task is to read sympathetically in order to read critically – that is, to understand what each author is asking and arguing, and then to thoughtfully evaluate his work. Of course, you should bring your copy of the text to class. At the end of each class period I will announce the readings for the next class period.

In university, all you have is your integrity. All forms of cheating, including plagiarism, harm both the person who commits the offense and the class as a whole. I expect high integrity—there is no other way to accomplish what we are here to do. Those who fail this standard should expect to face themselves, as well as the LSU Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability. Familiarize yourself with the LSU Student Code of Conduct for an outline guidelines and consequences.

#### **CONDUCT AND ELECTRONICS IN CLASS**

Classroom etiquette acknowledges that class time is set apart for a special purpose and requires students to respect others in word and in deed. Make sure you are ready to begin when our class starts and wait until it is over to pack your notes and belongings. Be attentive to what others say, and make an effort to contribute to class discussions. Know that, unless there is an emergency, leaving before class is over is unacceptable. **The use of laptops, tablets, and smart phones is *not* allowed in class**, except when approved for official note-takers. Using pen and paper instead limits the distractions your laptop presents to you and your neighbor. Studies show using pen and paper also contributes to better understanding and more effective learning overall. Audio recorders are allowed, but strictly for your personal use.

#### **HONORS OPTION**

To attempt honors credit, in addition to the above course requirements, you must complete an 8-10 page analytical essay, of very good to excellent quality, developed in consultation with the instructor.

#### **MOODLE**

Login to Moodle through your myLSU account to access readings and other course materials (posted as PDF files or Internet links) as well as your grades.

## RESOURCES

Office hours. These are for you. Come during regularly scheduled hours, or we can arrange another time.

Group study. I encourage you to organize your own group study, as it facilitates your understanding of the material and challenges you to think about the major questions and arguments of the texts.

Studio 151. For tutoring in writing, schedule: <https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/cxc/studio151/>

## REQUIRED TEXTS

**\*\* Students should print the selections marked on syllabus with a double asterisk from Moodle.**

**\* Students should purchase the following books (available at the LSU bookstore and through online retailer such as Amazon, AbeBooks, etc.).**

Kramnick and Lowi, *American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology* (2008)  
ISBN 0393928861

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (2001, Dover Thrift)  
ISBN 0486419312

Wendell Berry, *Fidelity* (1993, Pantheon)  
ISBN 0679748318