This course will explore and analyze American political thought from the nation’s founding; through the transformative crucible of the Civil War, and into the first years of the 20th century. Core questions will include the meaning of freedom and equality; the nature of the United States; the roles, values, and status of citizenship; changing understandings of political, social, and economic power; the appropriate relationship between the citizens and their governments; and when and in what ways the government may legitimately intervene to reshape society.

Course Texts
Lawrence Buell, *The American Transcendentalists: Essential Writings*
Abraham Lincoln, *The Portable Abraham Lincoln*
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

All other readings, along with lecture slides, syllabi, essay prompts, and all other course documents, can be accessed via the course website, [adamburke.wordpress.com/teaching/polisci565](http://adamburke.wordpress.com/teaching/polisci565). Students may also wish to pick up a copy of W.E.B. Du Bois’ *The Souls of Black Folk*, available online or at any bookstore.

Course Grades
Grades will be based on the following assignments: Essay 1 (20%), Essay 2 (25%), Essay 3 (25%) and a Final Exam (30%).

Schedule
- **9/3** Labor Day holiday, no class
- **9/5** Introduction

Roots of Revolution
- **9/10** John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630)
- **9/12** Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)

Revolution & Foundation
- **9/17** Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence* (with drafts) (1776)
  Samuel Adams, “Speech on Declaration of Independence” (1776)
- **9/19** Articles of Confederation (1777); Federalist #1, 10, 14, 39, 51 (1787-88)
  Anti-Federalist #1, 10, 14, 39, 51 (1787-88)
- **9/24** Federalist #70, 78, 84 (1787-88)
  Anti-Federalist #70, 78, 84 (1787-88)
  Constitution of the United States of America (w/Bill of Rights) (1789)
- **9/26** George Washington, Resignation as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army (1783);
  Letter to Rev. William Gordon on the subject of the nature of the Union (1783); First Inaugural Address (1789); Farewell Address (1796)
10/1  John Adams, Inaugural Address (1797); Special Session Message to Congress on the XYZ affair (1798); Alien & Sedition Acts (1798)  
Thomas Jefferson, Kentucky Resolutions of 1798; First Inaugural Address (1801); James Madison, Virginia Resolutions of 1798  
**Essay 1 Assigned**  

**An Outsider Looking In: Tocqueville & American Democracy**  
10/8  Tocqueville, 1:1:6-8  
10/10  Tocqueville, 1:2:1-6  
**Essay 1 Due**  
10/15  Tocqueville, 1:2:7-10, Conclusion  

**The Romance of Democracy: Expansion & Transcendentalism**  
10/17  Walt Whitman, “The Last of the Sacred Army” (1842)  
Abraham Lincoln, The Spot Resolutions (1847)  
Theodore Parker, selection from “A Sermon of Merchants” (1846, pp. 244-250)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Divinity School Address” (1838, pp. 129-145)  
**Essay 2 Assigned**  
10/31  Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself” (1855)  

**And the War Came: Slavery & Abolition, Union, Disunion, & Reunion**  
11/5  John C. Calhoun, “Slavery a Positive Good” (1837)  
James Henry Hammond, excerpts from “Cotton is King” (the Mudsill Speech, 1858)  
Abraham Lincoln & Stephen Douglas, “First Debate, at Ottawa, IL” (1858, pp. 130-171)  
11/7  Frederick Douglass, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” (1851)  
John Brown, “Address to the Court Upon his Conviction” (1859), note to his jailer (1859)  
**Essay 2 Due**

11/14 Alexander Stephens, “The Cornerstone Speech” (1861)
Frederick Douglass, “oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln” (1876)

Democracy Deferred: Struggles for Equality After the Civil War
11/21 Ernestine Potowski Rose, “Speech at the National Woman’s Rights Convention” (1851)
Sojourner Truth (and Frances Gage), “Ain’t I a Woman?” (1851/1863)
Susan B. Anthony, “On Women’s Rights to Vote” (1872)

Essay 3 Assigned


12/3 Du Bois, IX-XI, XIII-XIV, Afterthought

Republic & Democracy in the 20th Century
12/5 William Jennings Bryan, “The Cross of Gold Speech” (1896), Undelivered Closing Remarks at Scopes (1925)

Essay 3 Due


12/12 Theodore Roosevelt, “Who is a Progressive?” (1912), The “New Nationalism” speech (1912)

12/19 Final Exam 12:25-2:25

All dates on course schedule are approximate: reality will no doubt intrude. All papers and the final exam must be completed to receive a passing grade. Late essays will be penalized 1/3 grade per day late. This course adheres to all university standards for academic honesty, and all papers must be submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism detection in order for credit to be received. Plagiarism is when an author “uses words, ideas or work products, attributable to an identifiable person or source, without attributing the work to the source from which it was obtained, in a situation in which there was a legitimate expectation of original authorship, in order to obtain benefit, credit or gain” (“Is it plagiarism? Well, it is Rather Difficult To Say,” by Hannah Fearn, Times Higher Education Supplement, July 1, 2010).