PS 400: Topics in Political Science
Liberty, Equality, and American Democracy
Fall 2013

Professor John Zumbrunnen
Office: 322D North Hall  Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 Tues and Thurs
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Course Description
Part of the American Democracy Forum’s Undergraduate Fellows Program, this course explores the place of complex relation between liberty and equality in the history of American political thought and in the ongoing practice of American democracy. We will begin by considering debates about liberty and equality at the time of the American founding, then proceed to consider three types of equality and liberty--political, social, and economic. Throughout, we will of course have an eye on the current political climate.

Course Materials
The American Democracy Forum provides a set of key texts in early American Political Thought to all ADF Undergraduate Fellows. We will draw on these books during the first part of the term. Other readings will be made available on Learn@UW.

Course Requirements and Assignments
This is a small seminar. We will spend our time together discussing our shared readings and reflecting upon their significance for our current understanding of elections in American politics. This means that each of us must come to every session having completed the assigned readings and ready to engage in collegial and lively discussions and arguments with one another.

In addition to our in-class discussions, you will write an essay on liberty and equality in the early republic. You will also work in groups to produce a presentation about a particularly important issue of inequality in American history and write a 500 word essay on your contribution to that project. Finally, you will write a research proposal on a topic relevant to the course.
Course grades will be calculated approximately as follows, though I reserve the right to change assignments and weightings as I deem necessary:

- Essay on Liberty and Equality in the Early Republic: 20%
- Group Presentation: 20%
- Essay based on group presentation: 20%
- Research Proposal: 30%
- Class participation: 10%

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

- Students needing special accommodations to enable full participation in this course should contact the instructor as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 1305 Linden Drive, (608) 263-2741 regarding questions about campus policies and services.

- You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

- I will not discuss grades on assignments for 24 hours after they have been returned. If, after 24 hours’ reflection, you have a concern about a grade, please approach me with a brief written explanation of your concern. Any concerns about grading must be raised no later than two weeks after the assignment has been returned.

- Any instances of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be dealt with in full accordance with University policy and will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

Course Schedule

Sept 6 Introduction to class: thinking about Liberty and Equality

Conceptions of Equality and Liberty at the Revolution and in the Early Republic


Sept 20 Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* and *The Crisis* (Number 1)

Sept. 27 *Federalist Papers*, numbers 1, 10, 23, 51, 57, 68, 81
Oct. 4  
Brutus, *Essays*, pp. 281-328 and 345-358 in *The Anti-Federalist Papers*
The Federal Farmer, Letters I and II, pp. 266-381 in *The Anti-Federalist Papers*

Oct. 11  
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
Volume I, chapters III-IV (pp. 42-51), chapter XV (pp. 206-220)
Volume II, Book 1, chapter VIII (pp. 398-400)
Volume II, Book 2, chapters I-II (pp. 443-448)
Volume II, Book 4, chapters I-III (pp. 579-586), chapters VI-VII (600-611)

Political Conceptions of Liberty and Equality: Institutions

Oct 18  
**Electoral Institutions**

Oct 25  
**Legal Institutions**
Gerald N. Rosenberg, *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring about Social Change?*
Chapter 10: “Cleaning House? The Courts, the Environment, and Reapportionment”
OR Chapter 12&13: “Same-Sex Marriage”
AND Chapter 14: “Conclusion: The Fly-Paper Court”

Social Conceptions of Liberty and Equality: Social Movements

Nov 1  
**Women’s Suffrage**
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments” (1848), “Address Delivered at Seneca Falls” (1848), “Appeal for a Sixteenth Amendment” (with Matilda Gage & Susan B. Anthony, 1872)
Ernestine Potowski Rose, “Speech at the National Woman’s Rights Convention” (1851)
Susan B. Anthony, “On Women’s Rights to Vote” (1872)
Sojourner Truth (and Frances Gage), “Ain’t I a Woman?” (1851/1863)
Nov 8  **Civil Rights Movement**
Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty” (1958)
Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63*
  Chapter 5: “The Montgomery Bus Boycott”
  OR Chapter 7: “The Quickening”
  OR Chapter 12: “The Summer of Freedom Rides”
Selections from Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Economic Conceptions of Liberty and Equality

Nov 15  **Traditional Divisions: Wealth and Profession**
Barbara Fields, “Slavery, Race and Ideology”

Nov 22  **Modern Distinctions: Wages and Education**
Selections from Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*
  Introduction: “Getting Ready”
  Chapter 3: “Selling in Minnesota”
Additional Reading TBD