POLITICAL SCIENCE 565: HISTORY OF AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
FALL 2013
PROFESSOR GOMEZ
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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 12:00-2:00, NORTH HALL 416
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OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

HISTORY OF AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT:
FROM THE FOUNDING TO THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

Taking a historical perspective, 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, meanings, 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
- W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, Self-Reliance & Other Essays
- Abraham Lincoln, The Portable Abraham Lincoln (optional but recommended)
- Herman Melville, Bartleby & Benito Cereno
- Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (Penguin Classics)
- Norman R. Yetman (ed.), When I Was a Slave: Memoirs from the Slave Narrative Collection

All other readings, along with lecture slides, syllabi, essay prompts, and all other course documents, can be accessed via the course website, adamgomez.wordpress.com/teaching/polisci565FA13.

Grades
Grades will be based on the following assignments: Section Participation (10%) Essay 1 (15%), Essay 2 (20%), Essay 3 (25%) and a Final Exam (30%). All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class. Assignments will be graded on a scale of 0-100. Essays will be 5-7 pages in length, and must be double-spaced and written in 12 point Times New Roman font with standard margins. Late essays will be penalized 5 points per day late. Grade scale: A 92-100; AB 87-92; B 82-87; BC 77-82; C 70-77; D 60-70; F < 60

Since in this course we will often be dealing with abstract concepts, please take care to be specific in your wording. In the interest of promoting clear thought, lucid writing, and generally all that is right and good, the following words are prohibited from appearing in essays for this class. Each use of these words in any form will be penalized 3 points, unless it occurs in a direct quotation of a text.
- Values, ideals, morals, the Founders, the Founding Fathers, hypocrisy, lifestyle, rights (without modifier, i.e "natural," "human," "civil," etc.), history (as agent), “Since the dawn of time” (or “Since the beginning of human history,” etc.)
Course Schedule
Week 1: 9/4
  Introduction

Roots of Revolution
Puritans & Enlightenment
Week 2: 9/9-11
  John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630); Thomas Paine, Common Sense (1776)

A More Perfect Union
Revolution & Founding
Week 3: 9/16-18
  Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence (1776); Articles of Confederation (1777);
  Federalist #1, 10, 14, 39, 51 (1787-88); Anti-Federalist #1, 10, 14, 39, 51 (1787-88)
  Paper 1 assigned 9/18

Week 4: 9/23-25
  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)

An Outsider Looking In
Tocqueville & American Democracy
Week 5: 9/30-10/2
  Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Vol. 1 (1835): part 1: Author’s Introduction,
  1:1:2-5 (pg. 71-74, 95-116), 8
  Paper 1 due 10/2

Week 6: 10/7-10/9
  Tocqueville, 1:2:1-8

Week 7: 10/14-16
  Tocqueville, 1:2:9, 10 (398-450, 464-470) 2:2:2-3, 8
  The Romance of Democracy
  Manifest Destiny & the Transcendentalists
  Title” (excerpt, 1845), "Territorial Aggrandizement" (1845)

Week 8: 10/21-23
  Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Divinity School Address” (1838), “Self-Reliance” (1841)
  Essay 2 assigned 10/21

Week 9: 10/28-30
  Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street” (1853)
  “This Mighty Scourge”
  Slavery & the Civil War

Week 10: 11/4-6
John C. Calhoun, “Slavery a Positive Good” (1837); James Henry Hammond, excerpts from “Cotton is King” (the Mudsill Speech, 1858); Abraham Lincoln, “House Divided Speech” (1858, The Portable Abraham Lincoln, pp. 100-108), Frederick Douglass, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July? (1851), When I Was a Slave (selections)

Section
John Brown, “Address to the Court Upon his Conviction” (1859), note to his jailer (1859)

Week 11: 11/11-13

Section
Frederick Douglass, “Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln” (1876)

Week 12: 11/18-20
Democracy Deferred
Suffrage & Civil Rights

Essay 3 assigned 11/20

Week 13 11/25-27

Week 14: 12/2-4
Who Owns America?
Republic & Democracy in the 20th Century
D.W. Griffith, Birth of a Nation (selections); William Jennings Bryan, “The Cross of Gold Speech” (1896), Undelivered Closing Remarks at Scopes (1925)

Essay 3 due 12/4

Week 15: 12/9-11
Danger Threatening Representative Government” (selections) (1897) “Free Speech During Wartime” (selections) (1917); Theodore Roosevelt, “Who is a Progressive?” (1912), The “New Nationalism” speech (1912)

12/20 Final exam, 12:25

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 3 points 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).