

PSC 3353 American Political Thought
MWF 1:00-1:50, Draper 349
Baylor University
Spring 2007

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Course Description:

Students will examine American political and constitutional theory, from its philosophical genesis in the works of major early modern thinkers to the contributions of twentieth-century political and legal theorists. The original writings will be stressed.

Required Texts:

Martin Diamond, *The Founding of the Democratic Republic* (Wadsworth, 1981)
Mary P. Nichols and David K. Nichols, *Readings in American Government*, 7th ed.,
(Kendall/Hunt, 2004)

Recommended Texts:

Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, *The Federalist Papers*, ed. Jacob E. Cooke (Wesleyan University Press, 1961)
The Anti-Federalist (Abridged), ed. Herbert J. Storing and Murray Dry (University of Chicago Press)
Herbert J. Storing, *What the Anti-Federalists Were For* (University of Chicago Press)
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop (University of Chicago Press)
Herbert Croly, *The Promise of American Life*

Course Requirements:

Students will take a midterm and a final examination. In addition, students will complete one essay. Specific requirements for the essay will be handed out in class. The participation grade will include both class discussion and periodic assignments.

Midterm: 25%
Final: 40%
Essay: 25%
Participation: 10%

Course Schedule:

(NN) = Nichols and Nichols, *Readings in American Government*

(BB) = Blackboard

Week 1: Modern Liberalism and Christian Theology

St. Augustine, *The City of God*, selections (BB)

John Winthrop, *A Modell of Christian Charity* (BB)

John Winthrop, *Little Speech on Liberty* (BB)

Roger Williams, *The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience* (BB)

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, selections (BB)

John Wise, *A Vindication of the Government of New England Churches* (BB)

Week 2: The Revolutionary Generation

John Dickinson, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* (BB)

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (BB)

Thomas Jefferson, *The Declaration of Independence* (NN)

Abraham Lincoln, *The meaning of the Declaration of Independence* (NN)

Stephen A. Douglas and A. Lincoln, *Exchange on state sovereignty and the problem of majority rule* (NN)

Martin Diamond, *The Revolution of Sober Expectations* (NN)

The Articles of Confederation

James Madison, *Vices of the American Political System* (BB)

Week 3: Framing and Ratifying the Constitution

Diamond, *Founding of the Democratic Republic*, Ch. 2 and 3

Centinel, *The small republic argument* (NN)

Selections from the records of the Federal Convention of 1787 (NN)

James Madison, *The Work of the Constitutional Convention* (NN)

Madison, *Federalist 10 and 51* (NN)

John Adams, *The role of the rich and poor in the legislature* (NN)

Hamilton, *Federalist 84* (BB)

Madison to Jefferson, 17 October 1788 (BB)

Jefferson to Madison, 15 March 1789 (BB)

Week 4: American Constitutionalism and Judicial Review

Diamond, *Founding of the Democratic Republic*, Ch. 4

Alexander Hamilton [Federalist 78], *The role of the Supreme Court* (NN)

Brutus XV, *The Problem of Judicial Review*, (NN: 341-344)

Jefferson, *Against judicial review* (NN)

Jefferson and Madison, *Exchange on the binding of generations* (NN)

William J. Brennan, *Constitutional Interpretation* (NN)

Robert Bork, *Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee* (NN)

Week 5: The Hamiltonian and Jeffersonian Visions

Hamilton, *Report on Manufactures* (NN)

Hamilton, *First Report on Public Credit* (BB)
Jefferson, *Against manufacturing* (NN)
Jefferson, *Opinion against the Constitutionality of the National Bank* (BB)
Hamilton, *Opinion as to the Constitutionality of the Bank of the United States* (BB)
Madison, *Virginia Resolutions* (BB)
Jefferson, *Kentucky Resolutions* (BB)

Week 6: The American System

Henry Clay, *Speech on the American System* (BB)
John Marshall, *McCulloch v. Maryland* (NN)
Andrew Jackson, *Maysville Road Veto* (BB)
Jackson, *Bank Veto* (BB)

Weeks 7: Nullification and Secession

John C. Calhoun, *South Carolina Exposition* (BB)
Daniel Webster, *Second reply to Hayne* (BB)
Edward Livingston, *Speech in the Webster-Hayne Debate* (BB)
Andrew Jackson, *Nullification Proclamation* (BB)
Lincoln, *First Inaugural Address* (BB)

Week 8: Slavery and the Constitution

Gouverneur Morris, *Speech in the Federal Convention of 1787*, (NN)
Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, query XIV (BB)
Alexander Stephens, *The Cornerstone Speech* (BB)
Roger Taney, *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (BB)
Lincoln, *Speech on the Dred Scott Decision* (BB)
Frederick Douglass, *selected speeches* (BB)
Herbert J. Storing, *Slavery and the Moral Foundations of the American Republic* (BB)

Week 9: Separation of Powers and Executive Discretion

Madison, *Defense of the president's removal power* (BB)
Hamilton, *Pacificus I* (BB)
Madison, *Helvidius I-II* (BB)
Jackson, *On the Removal of Deposits from the National Bank* (BB)
Jackson, *Protest Message to the Senate* (BB)
Lincoln, *The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions* (NN)
Lincoln, *On the Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus* (NN)

Week 11: The Progressive Era

Herbert Croly, *The Promise of American Life*, excerpts (BB)
Theodore Roosevelt, *The New Nationalism* (BB)
Woodrow Wilson, *The Need for Cabinet Government in the United States* (NN)
Franklin Roosevelt, *The New Goals of Politics* (NN)

Week 12: Liberty and Economic Regulation

Slaughterhouse Cases (BB)

Lochner v. New York (BB)

U.S. v. Carolene Products (BB)

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (NN)

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Soft Despotism* (NN)

Catherine Zuckert, *The Political Lessons of Economic Life* (NN)

Antonin Scalia, *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council* (NN)

Weeks 13-14: Liberty and Equality

Brown v. Board of Education (NN: 565-567)

Plessy v. Ferguson (NN: 568-571)

Eugene McCarthy, *A Note on the New Equality* (NN: 571-574)

Kurt Vonnegut, *Harrison Bergeron* (NN: 574-579)

Jefferson, *The Natural Aristocracy* (NN: 580-582)

George Anastoplo, *Self Government and the Mass Media* (NN)

Miller v. California (NN)

Planned Parenthood v. Casey (NN)

Zelman v. Simmons-Harris (NN)

Tocqueville, *Why so many ambitious men and so little lofty ambition are to be found in the United States* (BB)

Week 15: American Foreign Policy

Hans J. Morganthau, *The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy* (NN)

Hamilton, *On Neutrality Toward France* (NN)

Woodrow Wilson, *Fourth Liberty Loan Speech* (NN)

James Pontuso, *American Foreign Policy and the Victory of Liberal Democracy* (NN)