

Oxford College of Emory University
Pol. Sc. 303 American Political Thought to 1912
William B. Cody, J.D., Ph.D.

Seney 310
Tu, Th 2:30-3:45
Fall 2008
Prerequisite: Pols 101 & 100

William B. Cody, J.D., Ph.D.
Seney 115-A
Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M, W 10-11, 3:30-4:30
Tu 4-5
Th 10-11
& by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an introduction to the ideas concerning human nature and government which have shaped the American polity. A principal goal of this writing intensive course is to develop each student's ability to communicate American political ideas through written and oral English. The principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as originally conceived and as developed during the course of our history, will be the primary focal points of our study. These are the principles which have formed the basis of the American polity and which have been at the center of political debate throughout American history. Students will study the political thought of the American Founders in considerable detail (including Thomas Jefferson, the debates in the constitutional convention, the "federalists" and the "anti-federalists." In addition, we will study the political thought of Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Margaret Fuller, Sarah and Angelina Grimke, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and W. E. B. DuBois

TEXTS:

Solberg: *THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE FORMATION OF THE UNION*
Hamilton, Madison & Jay: *THE FEDERALIST PAPERS* (Mentor)
Douglass: *AUTOBIOGRAPHIES* (Library of America)
Fuller: *WOMAN IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY* (Dover)
Lincoln: *GREAT SPEECHES* (Dover)
DuBois: *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK* (Dover)

Scott & Garrison: *THE POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT WRITER'S MANUAL* (Prentice-Hall)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

One short seminar paper (3-6 pages) on specific assigned readings will be required during the course of the semester. Each student will present and publish his or her paper on the course *Learnlink* conference at least 24 hours before the scheduled class to serve as a starting point for class discussion. This paper (along with optional rewrite) will count for a total of 15% of the student's final grade. Special sessions (each student is expected to attend only one such session) will be held between January 26 and February 6 to provide instruction on writing of these papers and the tutorial papers (see below). These papers will be due on the day the particular reading assignment is scheduled between February 26 and April 22).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (continued):

From March 18-28 and April 10-21, students will meet with the professor in pairs to discuss the assigned readings for those periods. Each student will prepare two tutorial papers and two tutorial response papers. The tutorial papers (each of you will prepare two of these) will be very similar to the seminar papers described above, but each should be 5-7 pages in length due to the larger scope of the assignments. The responses should be 2-3 pages in length and more detailed than the seminar paper responses described above. The paper, single response, and assigned readings will form the basis for our three-person discussions of these works, so they will need to be rather more inclusive than the seminar papers and responses. These four papers (two tutorial papers and two tutorial response papers) will count (along with any optional rewrites) for a total of 30% of the student's final grade.

Students will also be required to write a research paper of not fewer than eight pages nor more than twenty pages on some aspect of American political thought approved by the instructor. Special sessions (students are expected to attend only one such session) will be held between February 18 and February 28 to provide instruction on the preparation of the research papers. The research papers are due in class on **April 25** and will count for 40% of the student's final grade [A portion of this grade will be based on the proposal (5%), the initial annotated bibliography (5%), the first draft (10%), and the final paper (20%)]. In addition, there will be extensive opportunities for students to discuss their writing assignments with the professor outside of class.

The remaining 15% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class discussion (including critiques of the short papers of other students). The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive--no "extra credit" will be allowed.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS DISTURBANCE

Cell phones, pagers, computers, and beepers are not permitted in my classroom unless they are completely turned off! In the event that any personal communication device or other device causes a disturbance by making its presence known (audibly or otherwise), the possessor of the device may be asked to leave the room immediately and will be counted absent from the class for that day..

MAKE-UP WORK:

The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive--no "extra credit" will be allowed. An unexcused absence from any quiz, test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that quiz, test or examination.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are also expected to arrive for class on time. Students who are not in class are unable to participate in discussion and could lose points on the participation grade. In addition, students who miss more than three classes will lose the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of his or her final grade. Students who accumulate an excessive number of absences may be dropped from the course with a grade of WF (where appropriate).

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it. When in doubt, ask first! (See pages 101-104 of the 2007-2009 Catalog of Oxford College)

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. Unless otherwise notified in class (or noted on the outline), students should complete the reading assignments for each topic by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. For the purposes of quizzes, students are expected to have completed all readings by the first day they are due.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on page 86 of the 2007-2009 Catalog of Oxford College) will be used in determining grades for this class.

**THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY.**

OUTLINE OF THE CLASS SCHEDULE

- Jan. 17: Introduction. Background of the American Founding
- Jan. 22, 29: "The Declaration of Independence." "Articles of Confederation." Solberg, pp. 5-64 (esp. 34-53)
- [Jan. 24: AAC&U ANNUAL MEETING. NO CLASS.**
(Read ahead; make-up class will be scheduled, if necessary)]
- Feb. 5, 7: Convention Debates I. Solberg, pp. 67-130
Feb. 12, 14: Convention Debates II. Solberg, pp. 130-251
Feb. 19, 21: Convention Debates III. Solberg, pp. 251-344 + 347-379
- Feb. 26*: *The Federalist*, Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 23
Feb. 28*: *The Federalist*, Nos. 37, 39, 47, 49, 51, 58, 62, 63, 70, 72, 78, 84, 85
- Feb. 29: PAPER PROPOSALS DUE (1-2 pp.)**
- Mar. 4*, 6*: The Anti-Federalists. Handouts: Including "John DeWitt," Nos. 1, 2; Patrick Henry, speeches on June 5 & 7, 1788; "Brutus," Nos. 1, 6, 10-12, 14
- [Mar. 11, 13: Spring Break. NO CLASS.]**
- Mar. 17-21: Tutorials on Thomas Jefferson. Specific readings to be distributed.
- March 21: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
(to include at least six outside sources, not including internet sources)
- Mar. 24-28: Tutorials on Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln, All.
- April 4 FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE!**
- Apr. 1*, 3*, 8*: Frederick Douglass. Specific readings to be distributed + Douglass, pp. 475-659, 715-788, 874-886, 925-937, 966-980
- Apr. 10-15: Tutorials on Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* + other abolitionist and suffragist materials by early nineteenth century American women to be distributed.
- Apr. 16-21: Specific readings from later nineteenth century American women (including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and perhaps others) to be distributed.
- Apr. 22*, 24: W. E. B. DuBois. Specific readings to be distributed + DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
- April 25: ALL FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE!**
- April 29: Finish DuBois + Summary and Conclusions

* Student seminar paper may be prepared for class.