

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

T, Th 9:35-10:50

Spring 1993

Prerequisites: Pols 101 and
consent of instructor

Seney, 214A

Phone: 784-8444

Hours: M, W 9-10

T, Th 1-3

and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an introduction to the ideas concerning human nature and government which have shaped the American polity. 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 (including John Marshall) in considerable detail. In addition, we will study the political thought of John C. Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and W. E. B. DuBois. We will also examine political thought of some nineteenth century American women who were active in the suffrage and abolitionist movements.

TEXTS:

Solberg: THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE FORMATION OF THE UNION

Hamilton, Madison & Jay: THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

Calhoun: UNION AND LIBERTY

Douglass: LIFE AND TIMES OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Lincoln: SELECTED WRITINGS

DuBois: THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two announced tests will be given during the course of the semester. These tests will be given either during regular class periods or as take-home tests and will count for a total of 40% of the student's final grade. Any unexcused absence from a test will result in a grade of zero for that test. The scheduled dates for these tests are February 16 and March 30. Students will also be required to write a research essay on some aspect of American political thought approved by the instructor. The research essays are due in class on April 15 and will count for 25% of the student's final grade. A comprehensive final examination will be given at the time established by Oxford College. The final exam will count for 25% of the student's final grade. Students are expected to be active participants in each class session. Accordingly, the remaining 10% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class discussion. All examinations and tests are cumulative. The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive--no "extra credit" will be allowed.

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MAKE-UP WORK:

An unexcused absence from any test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that 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 take quizzes. 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.

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force!

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 chapter by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. The reading assignments listed below may be supplemented from time to time with additional photocopied material supplied in class and reserve readings in the library.

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

Outline of the Class Schedule

Jan. 12:	Introduction. Background of the American Founding.
Jan. 14, 19:	"The Declaration of Independence" & "Articles of Confederation." Solberg, pp. 5-64
Jan. 21, 26:	Convention Debates I. Solberg, pp. 67-130
Jan. 28; Feb. 2:	Convention Debates II. Solberg, pp. 130-251
Feb. 4, 9:	Convention Debates III. Solberg, pp. 251-344
Feb. 11:	Ratification Process. Solberg, pp. 347-379
Feb. 16:	TEST I
Feb. 18:	THE FEDERALIST, Nos. 1, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15
Feb. 23:	THE FEDERALIST, Nos. 23, 39, 51, 78, 84
Feb. 25; Mar. 2:	Thomas Jefferson. Specific readings to be announced.
Mar. 4:	John Marshall. Specific readings to be announced.
Mar. 9, 11:	Spring Break. NO CLASS.
Mar. 16, 18:	John C. Calhoun. Specific readings to be announced.
Mar. 23, 25:	Abraham Lincoln. Specific readings to be announced.
Mar. 30:	TEST II
Apr. 1, 6, 8:	Frederick Douglass. Specific readings to be announced.
Apr. 13, 15:	The Women's Movement in American political thought. Specific readings to be announced.
Apr. 15:	ALL RESEARCH ESSAYS ARE DUE IN CLASS ON THIS DATE!
Apr. 20, 22:	W. E. B. DuBois. Specific readings to be announced.
Apr. 27:	Summary and Conclusions.