Politics 233
American Political Thought

Spring 2010

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Office hours: T 130-230, F 10-1050, and by appointment

This course surveys major ideas about politics in the United States, from the Founding through the 1960s.

Students should have a basic familiarity with American history. If you do not, please consult the instructor about additional reading.

Each student will:

1. Take responsibility for leading one class session. This will constitute .20 of your grade.

2. Write a review of two outside books, due as indicated below (choose two of three).

3. Write a term paper (8-10 pp) on one or two of the themes listed in Dolbeare’s thematic table of contents (pp. xiii-xx). Due in lieu of a final exam.

4. Write 3 short papers (5 pp) due as indicated below.

5. Keep up with the reading, attend class, and participate in discussions. Attendance and class participation will constitute .30 of your grade.

Feedback about the course is welcome throughout.

Students are reminded to consult the College honor code, and any student with a documented disability should consult the instructor to arrange appropriate accommodation.
Schedule:

T 2/9. Historical background
   Sargent, pp. 1-29
   Dolbeare, Introduction

Th 2/11. The Puritans
   Sargent, pp. 30-42
   Dolbeare, #1, 2, 3

T 2/16. Franklin and Colonial America
   Sargent, pp. 43-48
   Dolbeare, #4

Th 2/18. Revolution
   Sargent, pp. 49-73
   Dolbeare, #5, 7, 10

T 2/23. Short paper due

Th 2/25. The Constitution
   Sargent, pp. 74-146
   Dolbeare, #11, 12, 13

T 3/2. Hamilton and Jefferson
   Sargent, pp. 151-162
   Dolbeare, #14, 15

Th 3/4. Transcendentalism
   Sargent, pp. 210-222
   Dolbeare, #21


Th 3/11. Minorities in Ante-bellum America
   Sargent, pp. 167-180
   Dolbeare, #22
T 3/16. The South and Its Critics
   Sargent, pp. 181-209 (top)
   Dolbeare, #23, 24, 25

Th 3/18. Lincoln
   Dolbeare, #26

T 3/23. Short paper due

Th 3/25. Reconstruction
   Sargent, pp. 237-275

T 4/6. Book review due: Wills, Lincoln At Gettysburg

Th 4/8. Industrialization and Re-segregation
   Sargent, pp. 276-311
   Dolbeare, #28

T 4/13. Radical Voices
   Dolbeare, #37, 38, 39

Th 4/15. Short paper due

T 4/20. The Progressives
   Sargent, pp. 312-322, 326-335, 339-341
   Dolbeare, #41

Th 4/22. John Dewey
   Sargent, pp. 322-325
   Dolbeare, #44

T 4/27. Book review due: Shklar, American Citizenship

Th 4/29. Wilson and World War
   Sargent, pp. 341-357
   Dolbeare, #43

T 5/4. Roosevelt and Depression
Th 5/6. Desegregation and McCarthyism
Sargent, pp. 383-403
Dolbeare, #48

T 5/11. Feminism
Sargent, pp. 404-406
Dolbeare, #51

Th 5/13. The New Left
Sargent, pp. 412-418
Dolbeare, #49

TERM PAPER DUE in lieu of final exam