

## AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT I

Political Science 356  
Northern Illinois University

Fall 2017  
MW 3:30-4:45pm  
DuSable 461

“We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability.”  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

### INTRODUCTION

Introduction to American Political Thought  
Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963, pp. 1308-1317, APT)

### SELF AND SOCIETY IN COLONIAL IMAGINATION

Mayflower Compact (1620)  
John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630, pp. 11-17, APT)  
Nathaniel Ward, “The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam” (1645, pp. 27-31, APT)  
Roger Williams, “Mr. Cotton’s Letter Lately Printed” (1644, pp. 146-148, SRC)\*\*  
Roger Williams, “The Bloody Tenent of Persecution” (1644, pp. 25-27, APT)  
William Penn, “Preface to the First Frame of Government for Pennsylvania” (1682, 80-83, APT)  
John Wise, “A Vindication of the Government of New England Churches” (1717, pp. 31-42, APT)  
Cotton Mather, “A Christian at His Calling” (1701, pp. 52-53, APT)  
Benjamin Franklin, “The Way to Wealth” (1758, pp. 53-60, APT)

### THINKING ABOUT REVOLUTION

Jonathan Mayhew, “A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers” (1750, pp. 43-52, APT)  
James Otis, “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted & Proved” (1764, pp. 100-107, APT)  
Jonathan Boucher, “On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance” (1774, pp. 113-118, APT)  
John Adams, “Thoughts on Government” (1776, pp. 124-130, APT)  
Abigail Adams, “Letter to John Adams” (1776, pp. 506-507, APT)  
Thomas Paine, “Common Sense” (1776, pp. 131-149, APT)  
Thomas Jefferson, “Declaration of Independence” (1776, pp. 151-154, APT)

### CONSTITUTION AND CONFLICT

The Articles of Confederation (1778, pp. 155-162, APT)  
Alexander Hamilton, “Letter to James Duane” (1780, pp. 163-170, APT)  
The Constitution of the United States (1787, pp. 171-181, APT)  
John Adams, “A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America” (1787, pp. 181-191)

Publius, "Federalist Papers, Nos. 1, 9, 10, 51" (1787-1788)  
Richard Henry Lee, "Letters from the Federal Farmer" (1787, pp. 248-256, APT)  
George Washington, "Farewell Address" (1796, pp. 319-323, APT)

### **MANIFEST DESTINY**

Thomas Jefferson, "Second Inaugural Address" (1805, pp. 356-358, APT)  
Andrew Jackson, "State of the Union" (1830)\*\*  
Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View of Indian Affairs" (1879, pp. 928-940, APT)  
Chief Joseph, Crazy Horse, Smohalla, "On Work and Property" (? , p. 941, APT)

### **SLAVERY AND AMERICAN ASPIRATIONS**

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)\*

George Fitzhugh, "Cannibals All! or, Slaves Without Masters" (1857, pp. 636-643, APT)  
Roger Taney, *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857, pp. 644-647, APT)  
James Henry Hammond, "'Mud Sill' Speech" (1858, pp. 647-649, APT)  
John C. Calhoun, "Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions (1837, pp. 601-604, APT)

William Lloyd Garrison, "Declaration of Sentiments of the American Anti-Slavery Society" (1833, pp. 559-563)  
Angelina Grimke, "Appeal to the Christian Women of the South" (1836, pp. 572-577, APT)  
Theodore Dwight Weld, "Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses" (1839, pp. 577-581, APT)  
David Walker, "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World" (1829, pp. 581-588, APT)  
Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (1852, pp. 594-598, APT)  
Abraham Lincoln, "Speech at Peoria, Illinois" (1854, pp. 649-654, APT)

### **INDIVIDUALITY AND INDIVIDUALISM, FREEDOM AND EQUALITY**

James Fennimore Cooper, "The American Democrat" (1838, pp. 465-471, APT)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance" (1840, pp. 471-476, APT)

### **AND THE WAR CAME**

Mississippi Declaration of Secession (1861)\*\*  
Jefferson Davis, Farewell Address (1861)\*\*  
Abraham Lincoln, "First Inaugural Address" (1861, pp. 668-676, APT)  
Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" (1863, p. 683)  
Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address" (1865, pp. 684-685)

## **WOMEN'S EQUALITY**

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" (1848, pp. 529-533, APT)
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Address to the New York State Legislature" (1860, pp. 533-535, APT)
- Susan B. Anthony, "Speech About Her Indictment" (1873, pp. 869-871, APT)
- Orestes Brownson, "The Woman Question" (1869, pp. 854-860, APT)
- Victoria Woodhull, "The Principles of Social Freedom" (1871, pp. 862-865, APT)
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Women and Economics" (1898, pp. 872-877, APT)
- Jane Addams, "Filial Relations" (1902)\*\*
- Jane Addams, "If Men Were Seeking the Franchise" (1913, pp. 877-882, APT)

## **CAPITALISM, SOCIAL DARWINISM, AND SOCIALISM**

- William Graham Sumner, "The Absurd Effort to Make the World Over" (1894, 719-724, APT)
- Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth" (1889, pp. 730-737, APT)
- Edward Bellamy, "Looking Backward" (1889, pp. 747-764, APT)

## **NATIONALISM AND EMPIRE**

- James H. Slater and James Z. George, "Speeches on Chinese Immigration" (1882, pp. 893-901, APT)
- Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus" (1883)\*\*
- Albert J. Beveridge, "The March of the Flag" (1898, pp. 915-919, APT)
- Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League (1899, pp. 919-921, APT)

## **CALLS FOR CHANGE: PROGRESSIVES**

- Upton Sinclair, "The Jungle" (1906, pp. 993-1000, APT)
- Monsignor John Ryan, "A Living Wage" (1906, pp. 1001-1002, APT)
- Jane Addams, "The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets" (1909, pp. 1002-1007, APT)
- Walter Rauschenbusch, "Christianity and the Social Crisis" (1909, pp. 1007-1012, APT)
- Woodrow T. Wilson, "The New Freedom" (1913, pp. 1102-1113, APT)
- Buck v. Bell* (1927)\*\*

## **CIVIL RIGHTS I: FINDING A STANCE**

- Reconstruction Amendments (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments)
- Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address" (1895, pp. 946-950, APT)
- Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- W.E.B. DuBois, "The Talented Tenth" (1903, pp. 964-969, APT)
- Marcus Garvey, "The True Solution of the Negro Problem" (1922, pp. 974-980, APT)

## **CIVIL RIGHTS II: EQUALITY AND MILITANT NON-VIOLENCE**

- Hiram W. Evans, "The Klan's Fight for Americanism" (1926, pp. 980-985, APT)
- Langston Hughes, "Let America Be America Again" (1938, pp. 985-987, APT)
- Lillian Smith, "When I Was a Child" (1949)\*\*

Freedom Songs

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Statement of Purpose (1960, pp. 1321-1322, APT)

Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream" (1963, pp. 1317-1321, APT)

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Eulogy for the Martyred Children" (1963)\*\*

Fannie Lou Hamer, "Testimony at Democratic National Convention" (1964)\*\*

**CIVIL RIGHTS III: FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet" (1964, pp. 1322-1328, APT)

Stokely Carmichael, "Toward Black Liberation" (1966, pp. 1339-1343, APT)

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Showdown for Nonviolence" (April 16, 1968)\*\*

Cornel West, "Race Matters" (1993, 1471-1476, APT)

**REFLECTIONS**

Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1973)\*\*

Wendell Berry, *Fidelity* (1993)\*

Dr. Sarah Beth V. Kitch

Email: sbkitch@niu.edu

Office: 416 Zulauf Hall

Office Hours: 1:30-2:45pm, Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Mr. Nathan McCormick

Email: Z1805186@students.niu.edu

Office Hours: 1:00-2:30pm, Monday and Wednesday, DuSable 476

**COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this course is to achieve an understanding of American Political Thought. Our study is thematic, and surveys institutional, political, and social development in American political experience. Toward this end, we draw on a wide range of literature, including treatises, letters, speeches, poetry, songs, and essays.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Reflection journal entries = 30%	Three 1-page reflections (10% each)
Midterm Exam = 20%	In-class
Unannounced quizzes = 25%	Five quizzes based on readings and lecture notes (5 pts each). Entirely unannounced.
Final Exam = 25%	4-5:50pm, Monday, December 11 (DuSable 461)

<b>Grading Scale</b>
A+ = 97-100
A = 93-96
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66
D- = 60-62
F = <60

NIU has a plus/minus grading scale for final course grades. Your course grade is based on three 1-page journal entries (30%), a midterm exam (20%), five pop quizzes (25%), and a final exam (25%). I will provide further instruction on the journal entries and expectations for writing. For each pop quiz and both exams, you will need a **pencil** (*be prepared*); I will supply the Scantron forms. For both exams, you must also provide a **Blue Book**. I will administer seven quizzes and drop the two lowest quiz grades. Your final exam will be in DuSable 461, **4-5:50pm, Monday, December 11, 2017**. All late material will be penalized. I may administer unannounced bonus quizzes.

### **PRESENCE, READING, AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Your success in this class depends upon your consistent presence, participation, and integrity. College is about challenging yourself to learn, to think about what matters and about who you want to be. Those are difficult tasks, but tasks more than worth the effort. University life requires us to prepare, to think, and to be present. Presence is about much more than simply showing up to class. It is about sharing in the task of understanding and analysis. That said, showing up to class is an important prerequisite for success. Your classmates, and you, depend on your presence for success in university life.

Before each class period, you should read the assigned materials and thoughtfully consider their significance for our study. Our task is to read sympathetically in order to read critically—that is, to understand what each author is asking and arguing, and then to thoughtfully evaluate the work. Of course, you should bring your copy of the text to class. I will post a **weekly reading schedule** on Blackboard.

In university, all you have is your integrity. All forms of cheating, including plagiarism, harm both the person who commits the offense and the class as a whole. I expect you to show integrity; there is no other way to accomplish what we are here to do. Those who fail this standard should expect to face themselves, and meet appropriate consequences. Familiarize yourself with the NIU Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.niu.edu/conduct/student-code-of-conduct/>) for guidelines.

### **CONDUCT AND ELECTRONICS IN CLASS**

Class time is set apart for a special purpose. Your aim is to respect others in word and in deed. **The use of laptops, tablets, and smart phones is *not* allowed in class**, except when approved for official note-takers. When you use pen and paper, you avoid the distractions a laptop would present to you and your neighbor. In addition, studies show that using pen and paper improves your ability to learn. You may not record this class without permission.

### **BLACKBOARD**

Login to Blackboard through your myNIU account to access readings and other course materials (posted as PDF files or Internet links) as well as your grades.

### **RESOURCES**

**Office Hours.** These are for you. Come during regularly scheduled hours, or we can arrange another time.

**Group Study.** I encourage you to organize your own group study, as it facilitates your understanding of the material and challenges you to think about the major questions and arguments of the texts.

**University Writing Center.** For tutoring in writing, schedule: <http://www.niu.edu/uwc/>.

**Students with Disabilities.** Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center. Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let his or her faculty member know as soon as

possible. Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability will be encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center if they have not done so already. The Disability Resource Center is located on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 [v] or 815-753-3000 [TTY] or by email at [drc@niu.edu](mailto:drc@niu.edu).

**Department of Political Science Website.** To reach the site, go to <http://polisci.niu.edu>.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

**\*\* Students should print the selections marked on syllabus with a double asterisk from Blackboard.**

**\* Students should purchase the following books (available at the NIU bookstore and through online retailer such as Amazon, AbeBooks, etc.).**

Kramnick and Lowi, *American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology*, Norton, 2008  
ISBN 0393928861

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Dover Thrift, 2001  
ISBN 0486419312

Wendell Berry, *Fidelity*, Pantheon, 1993  
ISBN 0679748318