

POLITICAL SCIENCE 110EB
AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT: FROM CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS
PROFESSOR HOUSTON
SECOND SUMMER SESSION 2005

Course Description

What is America's identity as a nation, and what does it mean to be an American? According to the Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal...endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights"; according to the preamble to the Constitution, the government of the United States was ordained and established by "the people." But as acrimonious debates and violent struggles quickly demonstrated, these canonical formulations provoked as many questions as they answered. What is freedom? Equality? Self-government? What social practices and political institutions hinder or advance these goals? Between 1860 and 1964 Americans struggled to answer these questions, conscious of the fact that they lived in a world unlike that of the Founding Fathers. Slavery had ended, the continent had been settled, machine industry had arisen, political parties had been formed, a powerful national government had been created, extensive involvement in international affairs had proven unavoidable. Through a careful study of a variety of primary sources—ranging from political pamphlets and philosophical treatises to court decisions and works of literature—this course seeks to introduce students to some of the most important debates over ideals, institutions, and identity that took place in America between the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. In so doing it seeks to illuminate a number of enduring themes in American political thought, from the nature of representation and purpose of economic organization to the significance of race and gender and the relationship between individual and community.

Class will be taught through a combination of lectures, discussions, and debates. Students are expected to attend class, participate in discussions and debates, and complete each day's reading assignment in advance.

Requirements

1. Each student is required to participate in one in-class debate and write two four-page (1,200 word) papers. The debate will count for 10% of your final grade; each paper will count for 25% of your final grade. Guidelines for debates and topics for papers will be distributed in advance.
2. Debates will be held, and papers will be due, on 9, 18 and 30 August. Each of you will be asked to indicate your preference for debate groups and paper due-dates the first day of class; assignments will distributed on 4 August.
3. Each student is also required to write a four-page (1,200 word) final essay, due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 2 September in the main office of the Political Science Department, SSB 301. (40% of grade)

Books Recommended for Purchase

The following books are available at the University Bookstore:

Mark Twain, *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folks*

All other readings are contained in a sourcebook available from Postal Plus Copy Shop. The reader will be available outside class after the first lecture; after that, you may purchase it from Postal Plus at 4130 La Jolla Village Drive.

Additional Information

1. My office is SSB 373. My phone number is 534-2951; my email address is ahouston@ucsd.edu. My office hours are Wednesday 10:30 – 12:00; I am also available by appointment.
2. The grader for this course is Christian Donath. Christian's office is SSB 352; his email address is cdonath@ucsd.edu. Christian's office hours will be announced the first week of class.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule

1. Inheritance (2 - 4 August)

Frederick Douglass

“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” (1852)

Abraham Lincoln

“Address at Gettysburg” (1863)

Mark Twain

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (1889), chs. 1, 2, 4 – 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 – 18, 20 – 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 37 – 44

2. Economy and Society (4 – 11 August)

William Graham Sumner

What the Social Classes Owe to Each Other (1883)

Lochner v. New York, 198 US 45 (1905)

Thorsten Veblen

The Theory of the Leisure Class (1899)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

The Yellow Wallpaper (1892)

3. Race, Equality, and Identity (11 – 18 August)

Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 US 537 (1896)

Booker T. Washington

“Atlanta Exposition Address” (1895)

W.E.B. DuBois

The Souls of Black Folk, chs. 1, 3, 6, 8 - 13 (1903)

4. The Progressive Spirit (18 - 23 August)

Jane Addams

Twenty Years at Hull House (1910)

John Dewey

Democracy and Education (1916)

5. The Limits of Democracy (23 - 25 August)

Schenck v. United States, 249 US 47 (1919)

Debs v. United States, 249 US 211 (1919)

Abrams v United States, 250 US 616 (1919)

Walter Lippmann

Public Opinion (1922)

6. Civil Rights (25 August – 1 September)

Ralph Ellison

Invisible Man, ch. 1: “The Battle Royal” (1952)

Brown v. Board of Education I, 347 US 483 (1954)

Brown v. Board of Education II, 349 US 294 (1956)

Martin Luther King Jr.

“Nonviolence and Racial Justice” (1957)

“Letter from Birmingham City Jail” (1963)

“Hammer on Civil Rights” (1964)

Malcolm X

Autobiography (1965)

James Baldwin

The Fire Next Time (1963)

Daily Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday
2 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture	4 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture
9 <i>Debate</i> ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture	11 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture
16 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture	18 <i>Debate</i> ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture
23 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture	25 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture
30 <i>Debate</i> ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture	1 Lecture ⌚ Lecture ⌚ Lecture