

POLITICAL SCIENCE 110EB
AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT: FROM CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS
PROFESSOR R. ALLENBOLAR
SPRING 2015

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 films. Students are expected to attend class, participate in discussions, and complete each day's reading assignment in advance.

Requirements

1. Each student is required to write two four-page (1,200 word) papers, as well as one seven-page (2,100 word) paper. Each four-page paper will count for 25% of your final grade, while the final-paper will count for 50% of your grade. Guidelines for topics for papers will be distributed in advance.
2. Papers will be due on 21 April, 19 May, and 9 June. Your first assignment will be distributed on 7 April.

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*

James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*

Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History*

Course Reader available from University Readers

Order by phone: 800-200-3908 or online: <http://www.universityreaders.com>

The course website will be at <http://allenbolar.com/pol-110eb-american-political-thought-civil-war-to-civil-rights-spring-2015/>

(just go to allenbolar.com and find our class in the dropdown menu labeled "Teaching")

Contact Information

My office is SSB #447. My email address is rbolar@ucsd.edu. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40 – 5:40 PM; I am also available by appointment.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule

1. Inheritance (31 March - 9 April)

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 (9 - 21 April)

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 (21 - 30 April)

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 (30 April - 12 May)

Jane Addams

Twenty Years at Hull House (1910)

John Dewey

Democracy and Education (1916)

5. The Limits of Democracy (12 - 19 May)

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. **America's Role in the World** (21 - 26 May)

Reinhold Neibuhr
The Irony of American History (1952)

7. **Civil Rights** (28 May – 4 June)

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), selection
James Baldwin
The Fire Next Time (1963)

*Final Paper due June 9th

*Have a Great Summer!