“In the beginning,” John Locke observed, “all the world was America.” For Locke seventeenth century America presented the world with an example of the state of nature, where individuals enjoyed and suffered a condition of natural freedom. Over a century later, Alexis de Tocqueville located the natural consequences of the age of democratic revolution in America: “I admit that I saw in America more than America; it was the shape of democracy itself which I sought, its inclinations, character, prejudices, and passions; I wanted to understand it so as at least to know what we have to fear or hope.”

For Locke and Tocqueville and many more, America is both exemplary and exceptional; it has significance not only for itself and its citizens but for all of humanity. So we too turn to the political thought of America, not simply because it is ours but in order to better grasp the meaning and fate of liberal democracy; we follow Alexander Hamilton in asking “whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force.”

**Required Texts**

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that these books were mistakenly ordered for GOV312P, under the unique number 38650. They should now have been re-listed under the correct code, but be sure you are buying the correct books.

1) COURSE READER, available at Jenn’s Copying and Binding, At the corner of Guadalupe and 22nd


Week 1 – What is American Liberalism?

August 24
• Introduction (no readings)

August 26
• Louis Hartz *The Liberal Tradition in America* (pg. 3-16, course reader)

Week 2 – The Theoretical Foundations of Liberalism

August 29
• John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  o Chapter 1 – 4

August 31
• John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  o Chapter 5

September 2
• John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  o Chapter 6 – 10

Week 3 – The Theoretical Foundations of Liberalism continued

September 5
• NO CLASS

September 7
• John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  o Chapter 11 – 19

September 9
• John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  o Chapter 11 – 19 continued

Week 4 – Christianity, Liberalism and the American Founding

September 12
• John Locke *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (pg. 21 – 58)

September 14
• John Locke *A Letter Concerning Toleration* continued
• John Winthrop “A Model of Christian Charity” (pg. 13 – 18, textbook)
• John Winthrop “A Little Speech on Liberty” (pg. 18 – 19, textbook)
September 16
- John Winthrop “A Model of Christian Charity” continued
- John Winthrop “A Little Speech on Liberty” continued

**Week 5 – Revolution, Independence and State Constitutionalism**

September 19
- James Otis “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved” (pg. 154 – 159, textbook)
- Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress (pg. 175, textbook)
- Thomas Paine selections from “Common Sense” (pg. 267 – 281, textbook)
- Candidus (James Chalmers) “Plain Truth” (pg. 281 – 288, textbook)

September 21
- Thomas Paine selections from “Common Sense” continued (pg. 267 – 281, textbook)
- Candidus (James Chalmers) “Plain Truth” continued (pg. 281 – 288, textbook)
- The Declaration of Independence (pg. xvii, textbook)
- The Articles of Confederation (pg. 332 – 337, textbook)

September 23
- The Declaration of Independence continued (pg. xvii, textbook)
- The Articles of Confederation continued (pg. 332 – 337, textbook)
- John Adams “Thoughts on Government” (pg. 291 – 294, textbook)
- Thomas Jefferson “1776 Constitution of Pennsylvania” (pg. 19 – 24, course reader)

**Week 6 – To Make a Nation**

September 26
- The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights (xx – xxviii, textbook)
- Thomas Jefferson “A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom” (pg. 27, course reader)

September 28
- The Federalist Papers
  - Federalist 1 (pg. 31 – 33, course reader)
  - Federalist 2 (pg. 37 – 39, course reader)

September 30
- The Federalist Papers
  - Federalist 9 (textbook)
  - Federalist 10 (textbook)
Week 7 – To Make a Nation continued

October 3
• The Federalist Papers
  o Federalist 49 (textbook)
  o Federalist 51 (textbook)

October 5
• The Anti–Federalists
  o Brutus I (pg. 40 – 46, course reader)
  o Centinel I (pg. 49 – 55, course reader)

October 7
• George Washington “Farewell Address” (pg. 651 – 658, textbook)
• Thomas Jefferson “First Inaugural Address” (pg. 688 – 690, textbook)

Week 8 – Tocqueville

October 10
• Alexis De Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
  o Pages 1-15 and 34-41

October 12
• Alexis De Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
  o Pages 101-146

October 14
• Alexis De Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
  o Pages 169-187

Week 9 – Tocqueville continued

October 17
• Alexis De Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
  o Pages 187-248

October 19
• Alexis De Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
  o Pages 248-286

October 21
• Alexis De Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
  o Pages 304-319
Week 10 – Individualism and Abolitionism

October 24
  • Ralph Waldo Emerson “Politics” (pg. 814 – 820, textbook)
  • Ralph Waldo Emerson “Divinity School Address” (pg. 924 – 931, textbook)

October 26
  • Henry David Thoreau “Civil Disobedience” (pg. 932 – 940, textbook)

October 28
  • Emerson and Thoreau continued

Week 11 – Slavery and Civil War

October 31
  • Abraham Lincoln “Lyceum Address” (textbook)
  • Abraham Lincoln “A House Divided” (textbook)

November 2
  • Lincoln continued (textbook)
  • Frederick Douglass "What to a Slave is the 4th of July?” (textbook)

November 4
  • Frederick Douglass "What to a Slave is the 4th of July?” continued (textbook)
  • Frederick Douglass, “The Constitution of the United States: Is it Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery?” (pg. 59 – 71, course reader)

Week 12 – Slavery and Civil War continued

November
  • Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates (textbook)

November
  • Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates continued (textbook)

November
  • Abraham Lincoln “Cooper Union Address” (textbook)
  • Abraham Lincoln “First Inaugural Address” (textbook)
  • Abraham Lincoln “The Emancipation Proclamation” (textbook)
  • Abraham Lincoln “The Gettysburg Address” (textbook)
Week 13 – Civil Rights and the American Founding

November 14
• Martin Luther King Jr. “Letter from Birmingham City Jail” (pg. 75 – 85, course reader)
• Martin Luther King Jr. “Address at the Lincoln Memorial, August 28, 1963 ‘I Have a Dream’ ” (pg. 89 – 92, course reader)

November 16
• Malcolm X “The Ballot or the Bullet” (pg. 95 – 108, course reader)

November 18
• John F. Kennedy “Civil Rights speech of June 11, 1963” (pg 111 – 112, course reader)
• Lyndon B. Johnson “Address to Congress on November 27, 1963” (pg. 115 – 117, course reader)
• Lyndon B. Johnson “Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Voting Legislation ‘We Shall Overcome’ ” (pg. 121 – 128, course reader)

Week 14 – America in Defense of Liberalism

November 21
• Woodrow Wilson “Speech to Congress, January 1918 ‘The Fourteen Points’ ” (pg. 131 – 133, course reader)
• Franklin Delano Roosevelt “Speech on the Four Freedoms” (pg. 137 – 142, course reader)
• The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (pg. 145 – 152, course reader)

November 23
• Harry Truman “Speech on the Korean war, April 11, 1951” (pg. 155 – 157, course reader)
• John F. Kennedy “Inaugural Address” (pg. 161 – 164, course reader)
• John F. Kennedy “University of Washington Speech” (pg. 167 – 169, course reader)
• John F. Kennedy “Ich bin ein Berliner!” (pg. 173 – 174, course reader)
• Ronald Reagan “City Upon A Hill” (pg. 177 – 183, course reader)
• Ronald Reagan “Remarks on East-West Relations at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin” (pg. 187 – 191, course reader)
• Ronald Reagan “Farewell Address” (pg. 195 – 200, course reader)

November 25
• NO CLASS
Week 15 – America and the Crisis of Modernity

November 28
• Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, “A World Split Apart” (pg. 203 – 213, course reader)

November 30
• Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History” (pg. 217 – 243, course reader)

December 2
• Robert Goldwin, “Of Men and Angels: A Search for Morality in the Constitution” (pg. 247 – 255, course reader)
Assignments and Grading Policy

Short essay 25%
You may choose between two options for your short paper. If you choose the earlier of the two options I will return your paper to you graded with comments before the mid-term add/drop deadline.

Option 1
A 3-4 page analytical paper selected from topics to be distributed during the third week of class. Due in hard copy in my hand at the beginning of class on September 23rd.

Option 2
A 3-4 page analytical paper selected from topics to be distributed during the seventh week of class. Due in hard copy in my hand at the beginning of class on October 21st.

Take home final exam 35%
An 5-6 page take home final, consisting of an analytical essay on a topic of your choosing from a list of several topics. Questions to be distributed on the second to last Friday of class, exams are due electronically no later than 5pm on the first day of the final exam period.

Attendance and participation 40%
Attendance will be taken daily and will constitute 15% of your final grade. You will begin with a perfect grade: after two unexcused absences each subsequent unexcused absence will drop your grade by one and a half points. This means that twelve unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero out of ten. Perfect attendance will be rewarded with a 5% bonus to your final grade. Participation will be assessed through a series of quizzes administered throughout the semester. Your best 5 quizzes will constitute 25% of your grade; I offer no assurances that more than 5 quizzes will be offered, however if 6 or more are administered your best 5 grades will count. If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence you will receive a grade of zero, and no extra credit will be granted.

Grading policies
Plus and minus grades will be used in the final grades. No extensions will be granted on written work except with good cause. You yourself may purchase an extension at a cost of 3 percent plus 2 percent per calendar day. This penalty will attach to all late papers unaccompanied by a doctor's note. No further late papers will be accepted once your classmates’ papers have been returned to them. If you fail to turn in your final exam before the grade deadline you will receive a grade of zero on the final. In the case of medical emergency or personal tragedy contact me as soon as possible to arrange accommodations.
Miscellaneous
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the University of Texas’ policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If you are struggling, come see me about improving your paper. If you elect to employ the services and knowledge of others instead I assure you I will catch you, and I will pursue disciplinary action.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.