“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**

*** All readings are in the public domain, and will be distributed by e-mail ***
What is American Liberalism?

January 14th
Introduction

January 16th
Louis Hartz selections from *The Liberal Tradition in America*

The Theoretical Foundations of American Liberalism

January 18th
John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
Chapter 1 – 4

January 21st
NO CLASS

January 23rd
John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
Chapter 5

January 25th
John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
Chapter 6 – 10

January 28th
John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
Chapter 11 – 19

January 30th
John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
Chapter 11 – 19 continued
American Christianity and the Question of Toleration

February 1st
  John Winthrop “A Model of Christian Charity”
  John Winthrop “A Little Speech on Liberty”

February 4th
  John Locke A Letter Concerning Toleration

February 6th
  John Locke A Letter Concerning Toleration continued

Revolution, Independence and State Constitutionalism

February 8th
  James Otis “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved”
  Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress

February 11th
  Thomas Paine selections from “Common Sense”

February 13th
  The Declaration of Independence
  The Articles of Confederation
  1776 Constitution of Pennsylvania
  John Adams “Thoughts on Government”

February 15th
  1776 Constitution of Pennsylvania continued
  John Adams “Thoughts on Government” continued
  George Mason “Virginia Declaration of Rights”
To Make a Nation

February 18th
   Thomas Jefferson “A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom”
   The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights

February 20th
   The Anti–Federalists
       Brutus I
       Centinel I

February 22nd
   The Federalist Papers
       Federalist 1
       Federalist 2

February 25th
   The Federalist Papers
       Federalist 1 continued
       Federalist 2 continued
       Federalist 9
       Federalist 10

February 27th
   The Federalist Papers
       Federalist 9 continued
       Federalist 10 continued
       Federalist 49
       Federalist 51

March 1st
   The Federalist Papers
       Federalist 49
       Federalist 51

March 4th
   George Washington “Farewell Address”
   Thomas Jefferson “First Inaugural Address”
Democracy in America

March 6th
Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America
Pages 1-15 and 34-41

March 8th
Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America
Pages 101-146 and 169-187

March 11th – 15th: SPRING BREAK

March 18th
Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America
Pages 187-248

March 20th
Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America
Pages 248-286 and 304-319

Individualism and Abolitionism

March 22nd
Ralph Waldo Emerson “Politics”
Ralph Waldo Emerson “Divinity School Address”

March 25th
Henry David Thoreau “Civil Disobedience”
Slavery and Civil War

March 27th
Abraham Lincoln “Lyceum Address”
Chief Justice Roger Taney “Dred-Scott v. Sanford”
Abraham Lincoln “A House Divided”

March 29th
Abraham Lincoln “Lyceum Address” continued
Abraham Lincoln “A House Divided” continued
Frederick Douglass "What to a Slave is the 4th of July?"

April 1st
Frederick Douglass "What to a Slave is the 4th of July?” continued
Frederick Douglass, “The Constitution of the United States: Is it Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery?”

April 3rd
Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates

April 5th
Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates continued

April 8th
Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates continued

April 10th
Abraham Lincoln “Cooper Union Address”
Abraham Lincoln “First Inaugural Address”
Alexander Stephens “Cornerstone Speech”
Abraham Lincoln “The Emancipation Proclamation”
Abraham Lincoln “The Gettysburg Address”
Progressivism and Equality

April 12th
   Sojourner Truth “Ain't I A Woman?”
   Susan B. Anthony “Women’s Right to Vote”
   Woodrow Wilson “Speech to Congress, January 1918 ‘The Fourteen Points’ ”

April 15th
   Woodrow Wilson “Speech to Congress, January 1918 ‘The Fourteen Points’ ”
   continued
   Woodrow Wilson “The President of the United States”

Civil Rights and the Idea of America

April 17th
   Martin Luther King Jr. “Letter from Birmingham City Jail”
   Martin Luther King Jr. “Address at the Lincoln Memorial, August 28, 1963 ‘I Have a Dream’ ”

April 19th
   Malcolm X “The Ballot or the Bullet”

April 22nd
   John F. Kennedy “Civil Rights speech of June 11, 1963”
   Lyndon B. Johnson “Address to Congress on November 27, 1963”
   Lyndon B. Johnson “Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Voting Legislation ‘We Shall Overcome’ ”
America in Defense of Liberalism

April 24th
Franklin Delano Roosevelt “Speech on the Four Freedoms”
The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

April 26th
Harry Truman “Speech on the Korean war, April 11, 1951”
John F. Kennedy “Inaugural Address”
John F. Kennedy “University of Washington Speech”
John F. Kennedy “Ich bin ein Berliner!”

April 29th
Ronald Reagan “City Upon A Hill”
Ronald Reagan “Remarks on East-West Relations at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin”
Ronald Reagan “Farewell Address”

The Crisis of Modernity

May 1st
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, “A World Split Apart”

May 3rd
Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History”
Assignments and Grading Policy

Short essay 25%
Option 1: A 3-4 page analytical paper selected from topics to be distributed during the second week of class. Due in hard copy in my hand at the beginning of class on February 15th.

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 March 29th.

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 May 8th.

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. Participation will be assessed through a series of quizzes administered throughout the semester. Your best 5 quizzes will be worth 25% of your grade. If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence you may retake the quiz at a later date by paying a penalty of three points on that quiz.

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.

Miscellaneous
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the University of Texas’ policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonestly. 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.