“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 available electronically ***
What is American Liberalism?

June 6
- Introduction
- Louis Hartz selections from *The Liberal Tradition in America*

The Theoretical Foundations of Liberalism

June 7
- John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  - Chapter 1 – 5

June 10
- John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  - Chapter 5 -10

June 11
- John Locke *Second Treatise of Government*
  - Chapter 6 – 19

Christianity, Liberalism and the American Founding

June 12
- John Winthrop “A Model of Christian Charity”
- John Winthrop “A Little Speech on Liberty”
- John Locke *A Letter Concerning Toleration*

June 13
- John Locke *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (continued)

Revolution, Independence and State Constitutionalism

June 14
- James Otis “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved”
- The Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress
- Thomas Paine selections from “Common Sense”

June 17
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- 1776 Constitution of Pennsylvania
- George Mason “Virginia Declaration of Rights”
To Make a Nation

June 18
- The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights
- The Anti–Federalists
  - Brutus I
  - Centinel I
- The Federalist Papers
  - Federalist 1
  - Federalist 2

June 19
- The Federalist Papers
  - Federalist 1 (continued)
  - Federalist 2 (continued)
  - Federalist 9
  - Federalist 10

June 20
- The Federalist Papers
  - Federalist 9 (continued)
  - Federalist 10 (continued)
  - Federalist 49
  - Federalist 51

June 21
- George Washington “Farewell Address”
- Thomas Jefferson “First Inaugural Address”

Democracy in America

June 24
- Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America

June 25
- Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America (continued)

June 26
- Alexis De Tocqueville selections from Democracy in America (continued)
Individualism and Abolitionism

June 27
- Ralph Waldo Emerson “Divinity School Address”
- Henry David Thoreau “Civil Disobedience”

Slavery and Civil War

June 28
- Abraham Lincoln “Lyceum Address”
- Chief Justice Roger Taney “Dred-Scott v. Sanford”
- Abraham Lincoln “A House Divided”
- Frederick Douglass “What to a Slave is the 4th of July?”

July 1
- Abraham Lincoln “Lyceum Address” (continued)
- Chief Justice Roger Taney “Dred-Scott v. Sanford” (continued)
- Abraham Lincoln “A House Divided” (continued)
- Frederick Douglass “What to a Slave is the 4th of July?” (continued)
- Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates

July 2
- Selections from the Lincoln-Douglas debates (continued)
- Abraham Lincoln “Cooper Union Address”
- Abraham Lincoln “First Inaugural Address”
- Alexander Stephens “Cornerstone Speech”
- Abraham Lincoln “The Emancipation Proclamation”
- Abraham Lincoln “The Gettysburg Address”

July 3
- Abraham Lincoln “Cooper Union Address” (continued)
- Abraham Lincoln “First Inaugural Address” (continued)
- Alexander Stephens “Cornerstone Speech” (continued)
- Abraham Lincoln “The Emancipation Proclamation” (continued)
- Abraham Lincoln “The Gettysburg Address” (continued)
Progressivism

July 5
- 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’ ”

Civil Rights and the American Founding

July 8
- 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’ ”
- Malcolm X “The Ballot Or The Bullet”

July 9
- John F. Kennedy “Civil Rights speech of June 11, 1963”
- Lyndon B. Johnson “Address to Congress on November 27, 1963 ‘Let Us Continue’ ”
- Lyndon B. Johnson “Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Voting Legislation ‘We Shall Overcome’ ”

America in Defense of Liberalism

July 10
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt “Speech on the Four Freedoms”
- The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 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!”
- Ronald Reagan “City Upon A Hill”
- Ronald Reagan “Remarks on East-West Relations at the Brandenburg Gate”
- Ronald Reagan “Farewell Address”

The Crisis of Modernity

July 11
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, “A World Split Apart”
- 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 first week of class. Due in hard copy in my hand at the beginning of class on June 17th

Option 2
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 July 1st

Take home final exam 35%
An 5-6 page take home final, due electronically no later than 5pm on the first day of the final exam period (July 12th)

Attendance and participation 40%
Attendance will be taken daily and will constitute 10% of your final grade. You will begin with a perfect grade: after one unexcused absence each subsequent unexcused absence will drop your grade by two points. This means that six unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero out of ten. Participation will be assessed through six quizzes administered throughout the semester. Your best 5 quizzes will be worth 30% of your grade.

Grading policies
Plus and minus grades will be used in all grades, including the final grades. For the final grades, cutoffs for the final grades are as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 88, B 84, B- 80, C+ 78, C 74, C- 70, D+ 68, D 64, D- 60. 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.