Poli 110EA American Political Thought

from Revolution to Civil War

Instructor: Aaron Cotkin
acotkin@ucsd.edu
OH: Wednesday Noon-2PM, SSB 447
(And by appointment)

Winter 2015: 5 January to 13 March
Warren Lecture Hall 2113
MWF 3:00PM – 3:50 PM

Required Texts:


These texts are available for purchase at the book store or at various online book retailers. Please purchase these editions. Other assigned texts will be emailed to you.

Grade Breakdown

Class Attendance and Participation 25%
Midterm 20%
Paper 25%
Final 30%
Policies

1. Email: Please include “Poli 110EA” in the subject line and allow up to 48 hours for response. Email is not for discussing in depth historical or philosophical issues, that is what office hours are for.

2. Courtesy: Please be respectful to yourself and to your fellow students by being on time, paying attention to your peers’ participation, turning off your cell phone during class, and restricting electronics use to course material. *I withhold the right to ban all electronics including lap tops if I feel they are more of a distraction than an aid.* Also, please bring the assigned readings to class with you.

3. Communication: Most problems or concerns can be resolved by clear and early communication. If you have any concerns or confusion about course policies or material, I am more than happy to clarify, but if you do not ask, I do not know that I am being unclear. Requests for alternate exam times or for extensions will generally require documentation; as usual, earlier we talk about it, the better.

4. Participation: A full quarter of your grade for the course is class participation. I take this very seriously: *a poor participation grade can lower your overall course grade.* You should come to every meeting of class prepared with questions you have and points you wish to discuss pertaining to the assigned text. Visits to office hours *can* help your participation grade, but will not fully substitute for participation in class discussion. If you are unable to participate in class discussion for any reason, come talk to me as soon as you discover this and we will attempt to work something out.

5. Plagiarism: Plagiarism and cheating will be pursued to the full extent of university policy. If you have any questions about academic honesty, please ask me.

Part 1: Weeks 1-4 The Founding

Week 1 Introduction and *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

5 January – Introduction to the topic, to each other; review of the syllabus; etc.

7 January – Work Ethic and Ethics (79)

Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* Parts I and II (1-78)

9 January – A Public life in Philadelphia (63)

Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* Parts III and IV (79-142)
Week 2 When in the Course of Human Events…

12 January – The Causes of American Discontents (48)

14 January – Common Sense (32)
Thomas Paine, “Common Sense” (To be emailed)

16 January – Independence! (15)
Patrick Henry, “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” (To be emailed)
“The Declaration of Independence” (Federalist 528-532)
Paine, The American Crisis I (To be emailed)
Paine, The American Crisis XIII (To be emailed)

Week 3 We the States or We the People?

19 January – No Class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21 January – Constitutions (35)
“The Articles of Confederation” (Federalist 533-541)
Franklin, “At the Constitutional Convention” (Franklin 354-363)
“The Constitution” (Federalist 542-568)

23 January – The Anti-Federalists (35)
All Readings for today will be emailed.
George Mason, “Objections to the…”
Patrick Henry, “Speech of Patrick Henry before the Virginia Ratifying Convention”
Letters of Cato #4 and #5
Essays of Brutus #s 6, 11, 12, 15

**Week 4 Publius and Exam**

**26 January** – The Federalist Papers Day 1 (55)

The Federalist #1 (22-31), #4 (40-44), #6 (48-54), #8 (60-66), #10 (71-79), #23 (148-153), #37 (220-227), #39 (236-243), #40 (243-251)

**28 January** – The Federalists Papers, Day 2 (46)

The Federalist #47 (297-304), #51 (317-322), #55 (338-343), #57 (348-535), #70 (421-429), #78 (463-474), #85 (520-527)

**30 January** – Midterm on Part 1

Bring Blue Books, something to write with, etc.

***Special Office Hours Thursday, 29 January Noon to 5:00 PM***

**Part 2 Weeks 5-8 Democracy in America**

**Week 5 What is Meant by ‘Democracy in America’**

**2 February** – The Point of Departure (36)

Tocqueville, Author’s Preface to the Twelfth Edition (to be emailed); Volume 1, Author’s Introduction (3-17); Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 2 (31-51)

**4 February** – The New England Township (58)

Tocqueville, Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3-5 (52-110)

**6 February** – Government by Democracy in America (49)

Tocqueville, Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1 (197); Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4-5 (215-263)

**Week 6 How to Maintain a Democratic Republic**

**9 February** – The Omnipotence of the Majority (54)

Tocqueville, Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 6-8 (264-318)
11 February – Maintaining a Democratic Republic (45)
Tocqueville, Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 9 (319-364)

13 February – The Three Races (~55)
Tocqueville, Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 10 (365-476) Day 1

Week 7 Union and Poetry

16 February – No Class: President’s Day
Tocqueville paper prompts to be distributed by email.

18 February – The State of the Union (~55)
Tocqueville, Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 10 (365-476) Day 2

20 February – I Contain Multitudes (17 plus Whitman)
Tocqueville, Volume 2, Author’s Preface (479-480); Volume 2, Part 1, Chapter 2 (489-493); Volume 2, Part 1, Chapter 17 (554-560); Volume 2, Part 1, Chapter 19 (563-568)
Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass (selections, to be emailed)

Week 8 The Political Culture of Democratic America

23 February – Associations and Industrial Aristocracy (47)
Tocqueville, Volume 2, Part 2, Chapter 1-9 (581-616); Volume 2, Part 2, Chapters 18-20 (642-652)

25 February – Mores in Democratic America (28)
Tocqueville, Volume 2, Part 3, Chapters 1-2 (655-662); Volume 2, Part 3, Chapter 7 (682-684); Volume 2, Part 3, Chapter 17 (722-724); Volume 2, Part 3, Chapter 21 (747-760)

27 February – Fear of Despotism and Conclusion (35)
Tocqueville, Volume 2, Part 4, Chapters 1-4 (787-802); Volume 2, Part 4, Chapters 6-8 (816-834)

Part 3 Weeks 9 -10 Union and Liberty

Week 9 Liberty as Freedom from the Federal Government

2 March – Economy (52)
Thoreau, Walden, Chapter 1 “Economy” (7-59)

***Tocqueville Paper due at the beginning of class***
4 March – Living Deliberately and Civil Disobedience (51)
Thoreau, *Walden*, Chapter 2 (55-71), Chapter 7 (107-115), Chapter 8 (115-119), Chapter 18 (212-221)
Thoreau, “On the Duty of Civil Disobedience” (222-240)

6 March – The Union, next to our Liberty, Most Dear! (55)
(Calhoun readings will be emailed.)
Calhoun, “Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions”
Note: the text contains two versions of the speech, only the second is required.
Calhoun, “Speech on the Introduction of His Resolutions on the Slave Question”
Calhoun, “Speech on the Admission of California – And the General State of the Union”

Week 10 Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom

9 March – The Lord, by Moses, to Pharaoh said: Oh! let my people go (35)
Franklin, “On the Slave Trade” (369-371)
Thoreau, “A plea for John Brown” (To be emailed)
Fredrick Douglas, “What to the Slave is the 4th of July” (To be emailed)

11 March – The Last Full Measure of Devotion (51)
“Speech on Reconstruction” (352-357), “Concerning Passes to Richmond” (357)

13 March – Conclusion

***The Final is Wednesday, 18 March in the normal classroom 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM***