

“If we could first know *where* we are, and *whither* we are tending,
we could then better judge *what* to do, and *how* to do it.”
Abraham Lincoln

American Political Thought
POL SC 2860
Strickland Hall 109
11-11:50 am

(M, W, F-1/3 of class at a time in person and online recorded lectures)

Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Hernandez
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Office Hours via ZOOM: M, W, F 1-3pm

Teaching Assistant: Gidong Kim, gkdte@mail.missouri.edu

Office Hours via Zoom: By appointment

Course Description:

Examines major themes that shaped three centuries of American political thought, including slavery, religion, and the tension between unity and difference. Readings are drawn from primary sources (Jefferson, Adams, Mason, Tocqueville, Calhoun, Lincoln, Stowe, Baldwin) as well as contemporary analytic commentary on those sources (Bercovitch, Hartz, Wolin, Guinier, Morrison).

The central goal of this course is to familiarize students with major texts and debates in American public discourse including the Framers, Slavery and Race, the role of government, and the rights of women in society.

Course Structure:

This course is currently a hybrid course where most of the content is delivered in a recorded lecture on Canvas and 1/3 of the class (about 17 students) at a time meets in person for a discussion-based class on Monday or Wednesday or Friday. All exams will be administered via Canvas. All papers will be submitted in Canvas.

In the event of in-person classes being cancelled, the once a week discussion session with 1/3 of the class would move completely to Zoom. Students would continue to take exams and submit papers on Canvas.

Course Text: American Political Thought, A Norton Anthology 2E (Kramnick and Lowi)
ISBN: 978-0-393-65590-2

All other readings and videos will be posted on Canvas.

Assessment: Two papers (3 page minimum double spaced) will be assigned in this class. Papers will be analytic essays focused on the section of the course being covered; no research other than from assigned course materials will be required but using additional resources could improve an essay. Additionally, there will be 5 discussion board paragraphs required from students during the semester. Students who write the minimum of a four-sentence paragraph addressing the question will receive full credit for the discussion board paragraphs. There will be a Midterm (on first half of class material) and Final Exam (on second half of class material) on canvas which will be multiple choice and true/false.

Your semester grade will be calculated as follows:

- Paper 1- 30%
- Discussion Boards -10%
- Paper 2 -30%
- Mid Term -15%
- Final Exam -15%

Final course grades will be calculated as follows:

Here is the grading scheme that will be used to convert points earned to letter grades. Please note that there will be no “rounding-up” of grades; there are no exceptions to this policy. Rounding-up quickly becomes an arbitrary and unfair process. There will also be no extra credit opportunities beyond those offered in class to everyone.

Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage
A	100% to 94.0%	C	<77.0 to 74.0%
A-	<94.0% to 90.0%	C-	<74.0% to 70.0%
B+	<90.0% to 87.0%	D	<67.0% to 64.0%
B	<87.0% to 84.0%	D-	<64.0% to 61.0%
B-	<84.0% to 80.0%	F	<61.0%
C+	<80.0% to 77.0%		

LATE PAPER POLICY

Late papers will be reduced 5 points a day and will not be accepted after the fifth day. Students with any sort of medical issue should contact the instructor about the possibility of a paper extension.

Tentative Course Calendar

Week 1:

Syllabus

Monday, August 24, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, August 26, 2020-Group B

Friday, August 28, 2020-Group C

Week 2:

Watch:

Charles C. Mann, 1491: Rewriting the History Before Columbus
PBS, The 1619 Project Details the Legacy of Slavery in America

Read for Discussion:

Syllabus

George W. Carey, Intro. to American Political Thought

Monday, August 31, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, September 2, 2020-Group B

Friday, September 4, 2020-Group C

Week 3:

Read: Colonial Roots 1620-1760, APT 1-63

Watch: Lectures on Colonial Roots

Read for Discussion:

Peter Lawler, Thanking the Puritans on Thanksgiving

Matthew Rozsa: Why have Millennials Stopped Celebrating Thanksgiving.

Monday, September 7, 2020-LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)

Wednesday, September 9, 2020-Group B

Friday, September 11, 2020-Group C (Available to Group A on ZOOM)

Week 4:

Read: Political Theory of the Revolution, APT 77-118

Watch Lectures on Political Theory of the Revolution

Read for Discussion:

Adam Seagrave, The 3395 Project
Twelve Scholars Critique 1619 Project
Lenape Chief Buckongahelas, A Great Nation Divided

Monday, September 14, 2020-Group A
Wednesday, September 16, 2020-Group B
Friday, September 18, 2020-Group C

Week 5:

Read: The Constitution and its Critics, APT 119-145
Watch: Lectures on The Constitution and its Critics

Read for Discussion: Sanford Levinson, It's Time to Repair the Constitution's Flaws

Monday, September 21, 2020-Group A
Wednesday, September 23, 2020-Group B
Friday, September 25, 2020-Group C

Week 6:

Read: The Case against the Constitution APT 210-240
Watch Lectures on The Case against the Constitution

Monday, September 28, 2020-Group A
Wednesday, September 30, 2020-Group B
Friday, October 2, 2020-Group C

Read for Discussion:

Paul Finkelman, The Root of the Problem: How the Proslavery Constitution shaped American Race Relations

Thomas G. West, Slavery from Vindicating the Founders

Week 7:

Read: The Federalist and Jeffersonian Visions, APT 243-294
Watch lectures on The Federalist and Jeffersonian Visions

Read for Discussion: W.E. B. Dubois, The Wings of Atalanta

Monday, October 5, 2020-Group A
Wednesday, October 7, 2020-Group B
Friday, October 9, 2020-Group C

Week 8:

Read: Women in the Early Republic, APT 431-452

Watch Lecture on Women in the Early Republic

Watch for discussion: Rosemarie Zagarri, Women and the Founding Era

Monday, October 12, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, October 14, 2020-Group B

Friday, October 16, 2020-Group C

MIDTERM EXAM on Canvas on October 16, 2020

PAPER #1 due on Canvas October 18, 2020 at 11:59pm

Week 9:

Read: Madison/Jefferson and Jacksonian Democracy, APT 334-385

Watch lectures on Madison/Jefferson and Jacksonian Democracy

Watch for Discussion: Joshua Lynn, "Preserving the White Man's Republic"

Monday, October 19, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, October 21, 2020-Group B

Friday, October 23, 2020-Group C

Week 10:

Read: Slavery and Free Labor, APT 471-518

Watch lectures on Slavery and Free Labor

Read for Discussion: Nicholas Buccola, Fredrick Douglass on the Right and Duty to Resist

Monday, October 26, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, October 28, 2020-Group B

Friday, October 30, 2020-Group C

Week 11:

Read: Slavery and Free Labor, APT 519-596

Watch lectures on Slavery and Free Labor

Read for Discussion:

LaWanda Cox: Lincoln and Black Freedom

Monday, November 2, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, November 4, 2020-Group B

Friday, November 6, 2020-Group C

Week 12:

Read Capitalism, Individualism, and Reform, APT 613-638 and the Progressive Era, APT 949-996

Watch lectures on Capitalism, Individualism, and Reform and the Progressive Era

Watch for Discussion: Randy Barnett and Paul Kens on Lochner v. New York

Monday, November 9, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, November 11, 2020-Group B

Friday, November 13, 2020-Group C

Week 13:

Read Empire and Race, APT 847-889, and the 1960's, APT 1133-1154

Watch lectures on Empire and Race and the 1960's

Read for Discussion: Barack Obama, Speech on Race

Monday, November 16, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, November 18, 2020-Group B

Friday, November 20, 2020-Group C

Week 14:

Monday, November 23, 2020 -HAPPY THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)

Wednesday, November 25, 2020-HAPPY THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)

Friday, November 27, 2020-HAPPY THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)

Week 15:

Read Voices of Dissent, APT 749-776, and The 1960's APT 1158-1164, and The Contemporary Discourse 1264-1270

Watch lectures on Voices of Dissent, the 1960's, and the Contemporary Discourse

Read for Discussion: Helen Andrews, Women Against Suffrage

Monday, November 30, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, December 2, 2020-Group B

Friday, December 4, 2020-Group C

Week 16:

Read The Contemporary Discourse, APT 1181-1193, 1318-1354

Read for Discussion: George Anastaplo, "Self -Government and the Mass Media: A Practical Man's Guide."

Monday, December 7, 2020-Group A

Wednesday, December 9, 2020-Group B (Available to Group C on ZOOM)

PAPER #2 is due on Canvas on December 06, 2020 at 11:59 PM

FINAL EXAM (second half of course material) on Canvas is Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020.

Discussion board assignments will be announced throughout course.

These readings are tentative and subject to change as the course develops.

COURSE POLICIES & FURTHER RESOURCES

Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19 in Classrooms and Labs

MU cares about the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff. To provide safe, high-quality education amid COVID-19, we will follow several specific campus policies in accordance with the advice of the Center for Disease Control and Boone County health authorities. This statement will be updated as information changes.

- **If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms**, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend in-person classes and contact your health care provider and/or student health immediately. COVID symptoms include: fever greater than 100.4 or chills; cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; unexplained muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea.
 - We will all wear **face coverings while in the classroom**, unless you have a documented exemption due to a disability or medical condition.
 - We will maintain a **6-foot distance from each other at all times** (except in specific lab/studio courses with other specific guidelines for social distancing).
 - We will enter the classroom and **fill the room starting at the front, filing all the way across a row**. When class ends, we will exit the row nearest to the door first; the instructor or TA will give the signal for the next row to exit, in the same manner.
 - In any small section or lab class that requires them, **additional measures will be listed in the syllabus and be mandatory for class participation**.
 - Online office hours will be available for all students.
- This course may be recorded for the sole purpose of sharing the recording with students who can't attend class. The instructor will take care not to disclose personally identifiable information from the student education records during the recorded lesson.

Compliance with these guidelines is required for all; anyone who fails to comply will be subject to the accountability process, as stated in the University's Collected Rules and Regulations, Chapter 200 Student Code of Conduct.

If an instructor has concerns about how a student is following COVID-19 policies and protocols, please report those concerns to the Office of the Dean of Students. You can fill out a COVID Safety Measures Reporting Form
here: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMissouriSystem&layout_id=38

By taking the above measures, we are supporting your health and that of the whole Mizzou community. Thank you in advance for joining me and your peers in adhering to these safety measures.

Mental Health

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00–5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

[Visit our website](#) to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. For more information, please see the [Office of Academic Integrity's "For Students" page](#).

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course or if you have emergency medical information you feel you need to share with an instructor, please let us know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the [MU Disability Center](#) (S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696) and then notify us of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, see the University's ["Accessibility and ADA" webpage](#).

Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for

diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](#); the [MU Equity Office](#), or equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Executive Order #38, Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion, and Privacy

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of [section 200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.