

POLI 391 Winterim 2023

Asynchronous 100% Online

Prof. Blakeman

Course Introduction

Welcome to POLI 391 American Political Thought for the **Winterim 2023** term. In this course you will study some of the prominent thinkers in the American political thought tradition. You'll read excerpts from their writings and learn about their agreements and disagreements over the primary ideas, issues, and policies in American politics. While we don't cover current political disputes or controversies, hopefully your reading and understanding of political thinkers over the past centuries will help you understand some of the more current public policy disputes and disagreements in our political system.

Some of the key learning outcomes for this course are:

1. **Students will closely read, analyze, critique, and discuss original sources on American Political Thought.**
2. **Students will understand the basic elements of the evolution of American Political Thought.**
3. **Students will be able to compare, contrast, and explain how American Political Thought has changed over time.**

Please note a few things:

First, the course is based on daily reading assignments. All reading assignments are in the textrental *except* for a few that are clearly noted in the syllabus.

Second, do your best to keep up with the reading. It is spread out over the Winterim and we cover approximately the same amount of material that we'd read in a typical semester.

Third, the course is organized in a modular format that follows the organization of the readings through different political eras and time frames. In each module you'll find a short introductory lecture/powerpoint and the list of assigned readings. I suggest viewing the lecture first and then working through the readings--but that is up to you.

Fourth, the course is organized sequentially. It is expected that you'll complete the readings in one module before progressing to the next module. The course is also designed so that you can move through the materials at your own pace and time (asynchronously). However, the exams in the course have set opening and closing times that will not be changed. So even if you "work ahead" in the course readings, you must still wait for the exams to open at the scheduled times. Additionally, the sequencing of the course means that some modules are closed until after a preceding exam deadline has passed.

Other things:

There is a separate Module for [Student Online Support](#). It contains very important information about the support services available to students taking online classes at UWSP. I strongly encourage you to review those resources, especially if you are new to the Canvas learning platform.

There is no graded discussion in the class so the Discussion link is disabled. The main reason for this that many of you will be working through the class at different times and paces. Therefore, in order to make

the class as asynchronous as possible I've decided not to require graded discussions that would have to be completed at set times.

The [Grades](#) link takes you to the page that displays your grades for this class.

Don't hesitate to contact me with questions about the class, reading materials, etc. You can send me a message through Canvas, or contact me by e-mail at: John.Blakeman@uwsp.edu OR jblakema@uwsp.edu. It's the same e-mail account.

Course Syllabus

This course is a general introduction to the study of American political thought. It covers some of the main political and constitutional ideas that have influenced the development of American politics for over 400 years.

The course centers on reading original texts on American political ideas, from Puritan writings in the 1600s and the Constitution and Federalist Papers in the 1700s to the letters and speeches of Presidents and political activists in the 20th century. One of the goals of the course is to be able to link various strands of American political ideas into a meaningful outline on how American political ideas have developed over the course of several centuries. Students must be able to critically read, analyze, discern, and write about the ideas, arguments and political and constitutional principles encountered in the readings.

Text rental: Lyman Sargent, [Political Thought in the United States: A Documentary History](#), available at the UWSP Bookstore.

Reading schedule: a separate document in Canvas lists the readings for each day of the course. Be sure to look at it soon. All of the course readings with a couple of exceptions noted in the schedule are from the text rental.

Winterim Course

Since this is a Winterim course at UWSP, the course lasts approximately 3 weeks. In order to meet the requirements of a 300 level course at UWSP, and to meet federal and UW System guidelines on Student Credit Hours (SCH), the reading load for this course is extensive. Since this is a 3 credit hour course, the expectation is that students will generally spend a few hours per day on course readings. The course is designed with that in mind.

Also, the course follows an academic schedule, which means the following:

- Knowledge of the subject matter builds over time and students are expected to study and read course materials in a specific order.
- Students are expected to be familiar with the readings and content from a specific module *before* moving on to the next or subsequent module.
- Because of the above, it is not advisable to quickly move through the assigned readings.
- Assignments are opened at specific times to allow students ample time to complete the readings prior to each assignment. Assignments will not be opened early.

Due to the concentrated schedule for Winterim sessions, you may need to reserve time on the weekends to catch up with readings or to finish essay exams. Please plan accordingly.

Advantages of online instruction: an online course has several advantages over face-to-face instruction. It offers a more *flexible* learning environment, especially for students who may not be able to regularly attend class. It allows students to *work at their own pace* in terms of completing the assigned readings and other course requirements. Students are also able to work *independently*.

Expectations: there are several expectations to the successful completion of this course, so please make sure that you note the following.

Computer Resource Expectations

Students must have:

- Reliable access to the internet.
- Proficiency with word processing programs.
- Ability to download AND upload files in Microsoft Word and pdf (Adobe).

Course Expectations

Students should generally expect to:

- Access course resources in Canvas on a daily basis.
- Read the assigned readings in a timely manner.

Students MUST be prepared to:

- Adhere to all deadlines for writing assignments. NO TIME EXTENSIONS ON WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN. ALL TIME LIMITS WILL BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED.
- Upload writing assignments into the Canvas dropbox, which is linked to the Turnitin plagiarism program.
- Work independently on assigned readings and graded assignments.

Course Deadlines and Reading Assignments

Course deadlines and reading assignments are listed in a separate document. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the layout of the course and pay careful attention to deadlines for the two short essay exams and the longer, final essay exam. The reading assignments are also listed in each specific module.

Canvas Downtime

There may be one day during this session when Canvas is not working due to maintenance. If that happens, I will notify the class via e-mail.

GRADING and ASSIGNMENTS:

Grade Scale

Your course grade will be based on a straight percentage scale. An A will be 93 or above, A- 90-92.99, B+ 87-89.99, B 83-86.99, B- 80-82.99, C+ 77-79.99, C 73-76.99, C- 70-72.99, D+ 67-69.99, D 60-66.99, F 59.99 and below.

Grading for this course is based on two short papers and one longer paper. The three papers require you to apply the course readings and materials to specific questions or issues. Paper prompts will open at specific times prior to the due date for each paper. Please review the specific dates on when each prompt opens and when each paper is due.

Essay Exam #1: 30%

Essay Exam #2: 30%

Final Essay Exam: 40%

Essay Exams #1 and #2 will cover specific segments of the assigned readings. Each paper will prompt you to analyze parts of the reading. The essay exams are NOT research papers, which means you are not expected or required to use outside sources to answer the essay. Thus, you may only use materials and content from the course readings. Each essay has a minimum word count of 750 words. Failure to meet the minimum word count can result in a maximum 20% reduction of the grade received on the essay.

Final Exam Essay: The final essay must be at least 1000 words minimum, and again demonstrate your knowledge of the assigned readings and your ability to write about the readings in a logical, analytical, and critical manner. As with essay exams #1 and #2, the final is not a research paper. You are to use only the readings from the textbook to answer the questions, unless otherwise indicated by the specific exam question. There is a grading rubric for the paper, so ensure that you are familiar with it. Failure to meet the minimum word count can result in a maximum 20% reduction of the grade received on the essay.

Turnitin.com: All essay papers will be scanned for plagiarism through Turnitin and if the paper is reported as plagiarized, with the exception of reading excerpts from the course textbook, the paper will potentially receive a grade of F with 0 points.

Exam Prompt Opening and Deadline Dates:

Please NOTE THE SPECIFIC TIMES WHEN SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS OPEN AND CLOSE AS THERE ARE VARIATIONS.

Essay Exam #1: **Prompt opens in Canvas on Friday January 6 at 12 noon ; essay is due on Monday January 9 at 11:59pm.**

Essay Exam #2: **Prompt opens in Canvas on Friday January 13 at 12 noon; essay is due on Monday January 16 at 11:59pm.**

Final Paper: **The final essay assignment prompt will be available on Tuesday January 20, 12 noon. It will not be released prior to that date. The due date is Friday January 23 at 11:59pm.**

Contact information for Prof. Blakeman

The best way to contact me is by e-mail: John.Blakeman@uwsp.edu or jblakema@uwsp.edu. You can also message me through Canvas.

Course Reading and Exam Schedule

NOTE: There is a short introductory lecture that precedes each day's reading assignment. The lectures give you brief overviews of some of the thinkers, ideas, and context for the readings. You may choose to view the lecture and THEN do the reading, or do the reading and THEN view the lecture. It's completely up to you.

POLI 391 American Political Thought

Winterim 2023

January 3-20, 2023

All readings, unless noted, are from the text rental: Political Thought in the United States, by Lyman Sargent (New York University Press, 1997). The text rental is available from the UWSP Bookstore.

You should also read the introductory sections in bold in the text.

As you read, think about the following questions:

- What political idea or ideas is the author conveying to the reader?**
- Does the author have a larger political agenda? If so, what is it?**
- Is the author arguing for some kind of political change? If so, what?**
- How does the author's premises fit into the larger context of American political and constitutional development?**
- Are the author's ideas "radical?" If so, what makes them "radical?"**

Of course, you should approach the writings with your own questions and perspective too.

Tuesday January 3

- Introduction
- Review Syllabus
- Get Text Rental
- Become Familiar with Canvas online learning system.

View introductory lecture on American political thought.

Wednesday January 4: The Intellectual and Cultural Background

View introductory lecture

Read: Preface

Intellectual and Cultural Background, pages 1-28 in the textrenal

Read the following selections:

The Formation of the Ho-de-no-sau-ne

The Great Law of Peace

James Harrington, The Commonwealth of Oceana

John Locke, Second Treatise of Government

Cato's Letters

Montesquieu, Spirit of the Laws

Thursday January 5: The Puritans

View introductory lecture

The Colonial Period and the Puritans

Pages 30-47.

Read the following selections:

Mayflower Compact

Roger Williams, The Bloody Tenent

John Winthrop, Little Speech on Liberty

John Cotton, Limitation of Government

Cotton Mather, A Platform of Church Discipline

Andrew Hamilton, Speech at the Trial of Peter Zenger, 1734

An Act Concerning Negroes and Other Slaves, 1664

William Penn, Letter to the Indians

An Act for the more effectual well ordering of the Indians, 1717

Friday January 6 and Saturday January 7: The Revolution and The Constitution

Exam Prompt #1 opens on Friday January 6 at 12 noon.

View introductory lecture

The Revolution

Pages 49-73;

Read the following selections:

John Adams, Instructions to the Town of Braintree

Anson County Petition

Declaration of Rights

Omit Jonathan Boucher, Passive Obedience...

Thomas Paine, Common Sense

Declaration of Independence

Adams Family Correspondence

Thomas Jefferson, An Act for Establishing Religious Freedom

Slaves Petition for Freedom, 1773

Preamble of the Free African Society

The Constitution

View introductory lecture

Pages 77-146

Read the following selections:

Articles of Confederation

Thomas Jefferson Letter to James Madison, 1785

Shays's Rebellion

Proclamation of Daniel Gray and Thomas Grover

Thomas Jefferson Letter to James Madison, 1787

Northwest Ordinance, 1787

The Constitution

Federalist Papers: **Read Closely Papers # 10, 39, 51, 78; Skim Papers #14, 15, 22, 23, 45, 46, 62, 84**

James Wilson, Presentation to the Pennsylvania Legislature

Melancton Smith, An Address to the People of the State of New York

Petition for Equal Education, 1787

Treaty with the Six Nations, 1784

Corn Tassel, Speech of 1785

Monday January 9

No assigned reading

Finish Essay #1

Exam Essay #1 Due at 11:59pm January 9.

Tuesday January 10: the New Nation

View introductory lecture

The New Nation, 1790-1840

Pages 147-161; 167-180

The Bill of Rights

11th and 12th Amendments

Alexander Hamilton, Bank of the United States

The Alien and Sedition Acts

The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

Jefferson's First Inaugural Address

William Lloyd Garrison, Declaration of Sentiments

Angelina Grimke, Appeal to the Christian Women of the South

Judith Sargent Murray, On the Equality of the Sexes

Benjamin Banneker, Letter to Thomas Jefferson, 1791

Andrew Jackson, Argument for Indian Removal

Wednesday, January 11: The Civil War and Reconstruction

View introductory lectures

The Civil War and Reconstruction

181-210; 224-237; 245-275

Read the following selections:

George Fitzhugh, Cannibals All!

Henry Garner, A Memorial Discourse

Frederick Douglas, What are the Colored People Doing for Themselves?

John C. Calhoun, A Disquisition on Government

Constitution of the Confederate States of America

Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation (page 243)

Skip pages 210-224

Treaty with the Kickapoo

Chief Seattle, Our People are Ebbing Away

Cochise, Plea to Live in the Mountains
Declaration of Sentiments, 1848
Sojourner Truth, Ain't I a Woman
Act to Guarantee a Republican Form of Government
13th Amendment
The Civil Rights Act of 1866
14th Amendment
15th Amendment
Black Codes of South Carolina and Mississippi
Lysander Spooner, No Treason No. 1
Treaty with the Nez Perces
Buffalo Bird Woman, Gone Forever
Crazy Horse, I Have Spoken
Victoria C. Woodhull, A New Political Party
Myra Bradwell v. State of Illinois
Susan B. Anthony, Statement to the Court

Thursday January 12: Industrialism and the Progressive Era

View introductory lectures

Industrialism and the Progressive Era

277-278; 280-312; 313-322; 345-357

Read the following selections:

Benjamin Tucker, Liberty's Declaration of Purpose

Edward Bellamy, Looking Backward

William Graham Sumner, The Absurd Effort to Make the World over

Sherman Anti-Trust Act

Manifest Destiny

Knights of Labor Constitution

Southern Alliance and Knights of Labor

William Jennings Bryan, Cross of Gold Speech

Booker T. Washington, Atlanta Exposition Address

Plessy v. Ferguson

Sitting Bull, Opinion on Treaties

Black Elk, Early Boyhood

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, The Book of Genesis

16th, 17th, 18th, 19th Amendments

Charlotte Gilman, The Home Lines of Advance

Suzanne La Follette, Concerning Women

W.E.B. DuBois, The Talented Tenth

Marcus Garvey, Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World

Lame Deer, Memories

Friday January 13

Complete reading assignments.

Exam 2 prompt opens Friday, January 13 at 12 noon.

Exam is due no later than 11:59pm on Monday January 16.

Monday January 16

Martin Luther King Holiday, no reading assignments.

Exam #2 is due no later than 11:59pm on Monday January 16.

Tuesday January 17: The Depression and the New Deal

View introductory lectures

The Depression and the New Deal

Pages 358-382

Read the following selections:

Charles E. Coughlin, The Platform of the Unionist Party

Norman Thomas, A Socialist Philosophy

Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address and Message to the Congress on the State of the Union

Walter Lippman, The New Imperative

The National Labor Relations Act (The Wagner Act)

Herbert Hoover, We May Sum Up

Manifesto of the Communist Party of the United States

Ralph Bunche, Tactics and Programs of Minority Groups

The Final Exam prompt will open on Tuesday January 17th at 12 pm noon.

Wednesday January 18 and Thursday January 19: The Post War Years and the 1960s and Beyond

View introductory lecture

The Post War Years and the Sixties and Beyond

Pages 383-422

Read the following selections:

Brown v. Board of Education

The Southern Manifesto

Martin Luther King, Jr, I Have a Dream

Malcolm X, The Ballot or the Bullet

CORE, An Alternative to Bitterness

Communist Control Act

Beliefs and Principles of the John Birch Society

Betty Friedan, A New Life Plan for Women

Milton Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom

Barry Goldwater, Acceptance Speech at the 1964 Republican Convention

Stokely Carmichael, Black Power

Black Panther Party Manifesto

25th and 26th Amendments

The Port Huron Statement

Equal Rights Amendment

Declaration of Continuing Independence...Treaty Council at Standing Rock Sioux Indian Country

Unabomber's Manifesto

Friday January 20

The Final Exam prompt will open on Tuesday January 17th at 12 pm noon. It is due on Friday January 20 at 11:59pm.