

POLSC 102 Section A / Democracy in America
Spring 2007
MWF 12:00-12:50
Professor: Christopher C. Burkett

COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The goal of this course is to pursue the most important question for us as citizens, namely, “What does it mean to be an American?” To better answer this question, we will dedicate our time and energy to investigating the principles and institutions that form the foundations of American democracy. We will do so by examining texts, speeches, documents, and court cases from the early years of the Republic to today. We will discuss a broad range of enduring and contemporary American political issues, including immigration and citizenship, religious liberty, and the nature and extent of executive power, among others. By looking at how Americans have thought about equality, liberty and self-government since the founding of the Republic, we can gain a better perspective on what American citizenship and democracy mean today.

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR:

Office: Andrews 213
Office Phone: (419) 289-5686
Email: cburket1@ashland.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 9-9:45 am, 2-2:50 pm; Thursday 1:30-2:30 pm, and by appointment
Students are encouraged to meet with me outside of class to discuss any aspect of the materials or topics we cover in the course.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

Students are encouraged to visit the professor’s personal website at www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/. There are valuable links and resources for students posted at this website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading quizzes (approximately 20% of the final grade)

Reading quizzes over assigned materials may be given on occasion without prior notice.

2. Final exam (approximately 20% of the final grade):

The exam will consist of a short answer section and an essay section. In writing your exam essays, you should demonstrate that you have a good grasp of the topics we have covered in class or that are contained in the assigned readings. The exam essay should cover general themes to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, but you should also include many specific examples from the readings to back up your claims. You should demonstrate that you have been participating intellectually in and out of class and thinking seriously about the topics we have discussed.

3. Class preparation (approximately 20% of the final grade):

This portion of the grade includes class preparation, quality participation, memory of assigned readings, and attendance. The preparation portion of the grade may also be influenced by the reading quiz grades. **STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DO THE READINGS BEFORE CLASS.** Discussion is highly encouraged in this course. I will call on students from time to time to explain the main points in the assigned readings. I will also address questions to the class generally, to which students should volunteer answers. This part of the grade will be affected by excessive absences as well as by failure to speak up from time to time with correct answers, whether called on or not. The best way to prepare for class is to read the assignments and make a brief outline of the main points. Then memorize your outline.

4. Papers (approximately 20% each of the final grade):

Students will write two papers (approximately 5-7 pages each) on topics assigned by the professor. These papers must be typed and double spaced, stapled (no binders), Times New Roman 12-point font, with footnotes or endnotes for every citation. Notes should be in the Chicago format as indicated in Kate L. Turabian's *Manual for Writers*. Be sure to include a cover page with the title of your paper, your name, and the course number and title.

The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have grasped the importance and complexity of the question or topic. You should be as concise and specific as possible in your papers, presenting a reasoned argument in support of or against a particular aspect of American political thought. Every paper should begin with a paragraph laying out your thesis, and in the body of the paper you should present evidence that supports your thesis. This is not an opportunity for you to simply give your own opinions on matters; rather, you should make observations and reasoned arguments and support them with evidence from the readings assigned for the course. You may also use outside sources, but the emphasis should be placed on the primary source documents assigned for class. Wikipedia is NOT a scholarly source, and you should avoid using this and other websites for your papers.

PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN HARD-COPY FORM. EMAILED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

GENERAL POLICIES:

PLAGIARISM: Any willful plagiarism on papers or cheating on exams will result in an "F" for the course. You should read the Academic Integrity Policy in the student handbook or catalog. Also see the link on plagiarism at my website, www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/.

ATTENDANCE: You should make every effort to attend every class. Even if you have what you think is a good reason for missing a class, the professor retains the discretion to decide whether to count it as an excused or unexcused absence. More than 3 absences will result in an automatic 5% deduction per day from the participation portion of your final grade.

EXAMS: The final exam will be on the date assigned by the University. Because you know this date in advance, please let me know BEFORE the day of the exam if you cannot be there to take the exam. Failure to do so will result in an automatic deduction from the final grade.

Contents of this syllabus are subject to change.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *Vindicating the Founders*, by Thomas G. West (Rowman Littlefield, ISBN 0847685179 or 978-0847685172)
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Dover, ISBN 0486284999 or 978-0486284996)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

- Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, sixth ed. (University of Chicago, 1996, ISBN 0226816273 or 978-0226816272)
- Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style*, fourth ed. (Longman, 2000, ISBN 020530902X or 978-0205309023)

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS:

- Other assigned readings will be included in a readings packet, which will be handed out the first day of class.
- Students should also browse the New York Times and Washington Times online daily, looking especially for articles dealing with political issues relevant to the topics discussed in class. Many interesting articles can be found in the “U.S.-Washington” and “Opinion” sections of the New York Times, and in the “Nation/Politics” and “Opinion” sections of the Washington Times. Both newspapers are available online for free (after signing up for a free account). The New York Times can be accessed at www.nytimes.com. The Washington Times can be accessed at www.washtimes.com.

READING PLAN:**PART ONE: PRINCIPLES****WEEK 1 (January 17, 19): Introduction: American political principles and institutions**

- W:** Thomas Jefferson on Equality (pkt. p. 5)
 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, §§ 54-55 (pkt. p. 5)
 James Wilson, Lectures on Law, 1791 (pkt. p. 5)
 Abraham Lincoln, Speech at Springfield, Illinois, 26 June 1857 (pkt. p. 6)
- F:** Declaration of Independence (pkt. p. 7)
 Thomas Jefferson to Henry Lee, 8 May 1825 (pkt. p. 8)
 Thomas Jefferson to Roger C. Weightman, 24 June 1826 (pkt. p. 8)
The Federalist No. 1 (pkt. p. 9)
 Abraham Lincoln, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions," 1838 (pkt. p. 9)
 Calvin Coolidge, "Speech on the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence," 5 July 1926 (pkt. p. 10)
 Ronald Reagan, Speech at CPAC, 1974 (pkt. p. 10)

WEEK 2 (January 22, 24, 26): The Social Compact and the Law of Nature

- M:** John Locke, *Second Treatise*, §§ 4, 6-7, 89 (pkt. p. 12)
- W:** John Locke, *Second Treatise*, §§ 123-127, 131, 134-138 (pkt. p. 13)
- F:** John Locke, *Second Treatise*, §§ 140-142, 222, 225 (pkt. p. 14)

FIRST PAPER TOPICS ASSIGNED

WEEK 3 (January 29, 31, February 2): Security of rights and the ends of government

- M:** Founders' Quotes on the Laws of Nature and Natural Rights (pkt. p. 17)
 Thomas Jefferson, Bill for Proportioning Crimes and Punishments, 1778 (pkt. p. 17)
 Town of Boston, Rights of the Colonists, 20 November 1772 (pkt. p. 17)
 Virginia Declaration of Rights, 12 June 1776 (pkt. p. 18)
 Massachusetts Constitution and Declaration of Rights, 2 March 1780 (pkt. p. 20)
- W:** Charles Merriam, "Recent Tendencies," 1903 (pkt. p. 21)
 Woodrow Wilson, "The Author...of the Declaration of Independence," 1907 (pkt. p. 23)
 Woodrow Wilson, *The New Freedom*, 1913 (pkt. p. 23)
- F:** Franklin D. Roosevelt, State of the Union Address, 11 January 1944 (pkt. p. 24)
 Lyndon Johnson, "Great Society Speech," 22 May 1964 (pkt. p. 25)
Memoirs v. Massachusetts (383 U.S. 413), 1966 (pkt. p. 26)
 Thurgood Marshall, dissent in *Harris v. McRae* (448 U.S. 297), 1980 (pkt. p. 29)

WEEK 4 (February 5, 7, 9): Civic virtue

- M:** Founders' Quotes on Citizenship and Character (pkt. p. 32)
 George Washington, Farewell Address, 19 October 1796 (pkt. p. 32)
 Abraham Lincoln, Speech in Chicago, Illinois, 10 July 1858 (pkt. p. 32)
- W:** Founders' Quotes on Virtue and Education in Republics (pkt. p. 33)
 John Adams to Mercy Warren, 8 January 1776 (pkt. p. 34)
 John Adams to Mercy Warren, 16 April 1776 (pkt. p. 34)
- F:** Founders' Quotes on Immigration and Foreign Influence (pkt. p. 34)
 Benjamin Franklin, Information...Remove to America, 1782 (pkt. p. 35)
 George Washington, Farewell Address, 19 October 1796 (pkt. p. 36)
 Matthew Spalding, "Making Citizens," 2006 (recommended, pkt. p. 36)
 West, *Vindicating the Founders*, pp. 147-173

WEEK 5 (February 12, 14, 16): Religious liberty

- M:** Massachusetts Body of Liberties, 1641 (pkt. p. 53)
John Locke, Letter on Toleration (pkt. p. 53)
- W:** John Locke, Letter on Toleration (continued)
Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah (508 US 520), 1993 (pkt. p. 56)
- F:** George Washington to Hebrew Congregation at Newport, August 1790 (pkt. p. 58)
George Washington to United Baptist Churches in Virginia, 10 May 1789 (pkt. p. 58)
George Washington to Gen. Assembly of Presbyterian Churches, May 1789 (pkt. p. 59)
George Washington to Roman Catholics, 15 March 1790 (pkt. p. 59)
George Washington to the Annual Meeting of Quakers, September 1789 (pkt. p. 59)
George Washington, Thanksgiving Proclamation, 3 October 1789 (pkt. p. 60)
George Washington, Farewell Address, 19 October 1796 (pkt. p. 60)

FIRST PAPER DUE FRIDAY 2/16 BY 5:00 P.M.

WEEK 6 (February 19, 21, 23): Religious liberty

- M:** U.S. Constitution Amendment I (15 December 1791) (pkt. p. 61)
State Constitutions: VA, NC, PA, NY, VT, SC, MA, NH (pkt. p. 61)
- W:** Thomas Jefferson to Danbury Baptist Association, 1 January 1802 (pkt. p. 65)
Thomas Jefferson to Rev. Samuel Miller, 23 January 1808 (pkt. p. 65)
Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Statute for Religious Liberty, 16 January 1786 (pkt. p. 66)
- F:** U.S. Constitution Amendment XIV (9 July 1868) (pkt. p. 67)
Everson v. Board of Education of Ewing Township (330 U.S. 1), 1947 (pkt. p. 67)
Lemon v. Kurtzman (403 U.S. 602), 1971 (pkt. p. 68)
Zelman v. Simmons-Harris (536 U.S. 39), 2002 (pkt. p. 69)

SECOND PAPER TOPICS ASSIGNED

WEEK 7 (February 26, 28, March 2): Property rights

- M:** Founders' Quotes on Property Rights (pkt. p. 72)
 John Locke, *Second Treatise*, §§26-27 (pkt. p. 72)
 Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, 4 March 1801 (pkt. p. 73)
 Ike Sugg, "California Fires: Losing Houses, Saving Rats," 1993 (pkt. p. 73)
 Gideon Kanner, "California Rat Killer Gets Off," 1995 (pkt. p. 75)
- W:** U.S. Constitution Amendment V (pkt. p. 77)
Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council (505 U.S. 1003), 1992 (pkt. p. 77)
Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Coun. v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 2002 (pkt. p. 79)
- F:** *Kelo v. City of New London*, 2005 (pkt. p. 80)

WEEK 8 (March 5, 7, 9): Freedom and Slavery

- M:** Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*, chapters I, II, IV, VI
- W:** Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*, chapters VII and IX
- F:** Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*, chapter X and Appendix

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS MARCH 12, 14, 16**WEEK 10 (March 19, 21, 23): Freedom and Slavery**

- M:** "Slavery Clauses" in the U.S. Constitution (pkt. p. 85)
 Thurgood Marshall, "Remarks on the Bicentennial of the Constitution," 1987 (pkt. p. 85)
 William Lloyd Garrison, "On the Constitution and the Union," 1832 (pkt. p. 86)
 William Lloyd Garrison, "The American Union," 10 January 1845 (pkt. p. 87)
 Frederick Douglass, "The Constitution of the United States: Is It Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery?" 26 March 1860 (pkt. p. 88)
 West, *Vindicating the Founders*, pp. 1-21
- W:** Founders' Quotes on Slavery (pkt. p. 91)
 John C. Calhoun, "Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions," 1837 (pkt. p. 92)
 John C. Calhoun, "Speech on the Oregon Bill," 27 June 1848 (pkt. p. 93)
 Alexander H. Stephens, "Cornerstone Speech," 21 March 1861 (pkt. p. 94)
Dred Scott v. Sandford, 1857 (pkt. p. 95)
 West, *Vindicating the Founders*, pp. 21-36
- F:** Stephen Douglas, "Homecoming Speech at Chicago," 9 July 1858 (pkt. p. 97)
 Abraham Lincoln, Speech at Peoria, Illinois, 16 October 1854 (pkt. p. 98)

PART TWO: INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 11 (March 26, 28, 30): The Constitution: separation of powers and checks and balances

- M:** U.S. Constitution Preamble (pkt. p. 102)
The Federalist Nos. 9 and 10 (pkt. p. 102)
- W:** *The Federalist* Nos. 47 and 48 (pkt. p. 106)
- F:** *The Federalist* No. 51 (pkt. p. 107)

SECOND PAPER DUE FRIDAY 3/30 BY 5:00 P.M.

WEEK 12 (April 2, 4): The Constitution: separation of powers and checks and balances

- M:** *The Federalist* No. 51 (continued)
- W:** Woodrow Wilson, *The New Freedom*, 1913 (pkt. p. 109)
Mistretta v. U.S. (488 U.S. 361), 1989 (pkt. p. 110)
- F:** **NO CLASS FRIDAY 4/6 – EASTER BREAK**

WEEK 13 (April 11, 13): Foreign Policy

- M:** **NO CLASS MONDAY 4/9 – EASTER BREAK**
- W:** John Quincy Adams, “Independence Day Address to Congress,” 1821 (pkt. p. 115)
 Charles Merriam, “Recent Tendencies,” 1903 (pkt. p. 115)
 Theodore Roosevelt, “Expansion of the White Races,” 18 January 1909 (pkt. p. 116)
- F:** Woodrow Wilson, “War Message to the Congress,” 2 April 1917 (pkt. p. 117)
 William Clinton, “Freedom House Speech,” October 6, 1995 (pkt. p. 118)
 George W. Bush, Second Inaugural Address, 20 January 2005 (pkt. p. 119)

WEEK 14 (April 16, 18, 20): Federalism and limited government

- M:** U.S. Constitution Article I Sections 8-10, Article VI, Amendment X (pkt. p. 122)
McCulloch v. Maryland, 1819 (pkt. p. 124)
- W:** U.S. Constitution, Article I Section 8 (“Commerce Clause”) (pkt. p. 125)
U.S. v. Darby Lumber Company (312 US 100), 1941 (pkt. p. 126)
Wickard v. Filburn (317 US 111), 1942 (pkt. p. 127)
- F:** *U.S. v. Lopez* (514 US 549), 1995 (pkt. p. 128)

WEEK 15 (April 23, 25, 27): Executive power and the Presidency

- M:** U.S. Constitution Article II (pkt. p. 132)
The Federalist Nos. 70-73 (pkt. p. 132)
- W:** Woodrow Wilson, *Constitutional Government in the United States*, 1908 (pkt. p. 136)
- F:** John Locke, *Second Treatise*, §§ 143-148, 159-160 (pkt. p. 138)

WEEK 16 (April 30, May 2, 4): Executive power and the Presidency

- M:** George Washington, Proclamation of Neutrality, 1793 (pkt. p. 139)
Pacifcus and Helvidius letters (pkt. p. 140)
- W:** *The Federalist* No. 23 (pkt. p. 145)
Thomas Jefferson to John B. Colvin, 20 September 1810 (pkt. p. 145)
Abraham Lincoln to Albert Hodges, 4 April 1864 (pkt. p. 146)
- F:** Abraham Lincoln, Message to Congress in Special Session, 4 July 1861 (pkt. p. 147)
“War Powers Resolution,” 7 November 1973 (pkt. p. 149)

LAST DAY OF CLASSES – FRIDAY 5/4