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Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 12-1
or by appointment
Summer 2005

Political Science 4960: Special Topics: 20th Century American Political Thought
Mon/Wed 9 am-12 pm, OSH 235

This course will survey 20th century political and social thought in the United States. Although not intended as a course in ideologies, our readings and discussions will explore the different schools of political thought during the last century. Our major themes will include the attempt to tie personal morality to public life and the attempt to reconcile the individualism with the egalitarian ideals of democracy. We will flesh out these themes by exploring how different understandings of the individual provide for differing conceptions of social mobility, the relationship of religion and culture to political action, the importance of private property, economic prosperity, and educational opportunity, and political, social and economic inequalities based on race and gender.

Required Materials:

Many of our readings will come from the single required text: Hollinger and Capper, *The American Intellectual Tradition*, Vol. II.(Oxford Univ. Press, 2001, 4th Ed). Additional readings denoted by an asterisk * are on reserve at Marriott Library (including [electronic reserve](#)). Readings denoted as **Web** are available through the Web version of this syllabus.

Course Requirements:

The format of this course will require a great deal of reading and participation in classroom discussion; there will be a minimum of lecture. Students will deliver brief oral presentations about the authors of assigned readings; presentations should be based on your own reflection on a minimum of 3 different sources. *The American National Biography* (Library Reference: CT213 .A68 1999) is a good starting place. There will also be three short (4-5 page) required papers which are due by 5 pm on the date given; needing to finish a paper is no excuse for a lack of attendance. Student participation in class discussion will be a very large portion of your final grade, and attendance is mandatory (as participation is difficult without it). As each of our sessions represents a week of class during regular semesters, missing a little means missing a lot. **I expect you to complete ALL of the assigned reading BEFORE the class for which it was assigned and I reserve the right to call on ANYONE ANYTIME. Please note the assignments for the FIRST DAY.**

Participation	<i>Includes presentations</i>		30%
First Paper	Assigned May 25	Due June 1	20%
Second Paper	Assigned June 8	Due June 15	25%
Final Paper	Assigned June 22	Due June 29	25%

Miscellaneous Unfair Policies: All quotes must be cited as such and include a clear reference to the work from which they were drawn; they will otherwise be treated as plagiarism. All use of materials other than course materials must be accompanied by full citations. All work in this course is assigned as individual work; working as groups or teams is strongly discouraged (and may be treated as cheating), as is all but the most casual assistance from others; this includes spouses and other family members. If you intend to submit a

paper which significantly draws upon work for another class, you must first receive explicit permission to do so from both myself and the other instructor. **Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and other disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the University.** Please note that you should keep a copy of your work. When working on a computer, always make a back-up; computer malfunction is not an excuse.

Accommodation of Sincerely Held Beliefs: I will work with students who require schedule changes due to religious or other significant obligations. I will not consider any requests based on course content. Because modern American politics includes many debates over sexuality, obscenity, religious practice and belief, and political ideology, any class that did not address such issues would be substantially limited. Students are required to attend all classes and to read all assignments. All assignments and lectures are related to our subject matter, and I do not include gratuitously salacious material. If you have any objection to the frank and open discussion of any of the topics above, including the use of adult language when appropriate to subject matter, please drop the class.

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice: Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should provide reasonable prior notice to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements. Written material in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification.

The Course of Reading and Instruction will be as follows:

May 16 - Introduction: America Before Modernism

George Santayana, "The Genteel Tradition in American Philosophy,"
 Henry Adams, "The Dynamo and the Virgin," (or [via the Web](#))
 Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier,"

* Sacvan Bercovitch, *The American Jeremiad*

May 18 - Pragmatism as American Philosophy

Charles Peirce, "The Fixation of Belief"
 William James, "The Will to Believe"
 William James, "What Pragmatism Means"
 Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Natural Law"
 John Dewey, *Philosophy and Democracy*
 Thomas S. Kuhn, Selection from *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
 Richard Rorty, "Science as Solidarity"

May 23 - Progressivism and Liberalism

Woodrow Wilson, "The Ideals of America"
 Jane Addams, "The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements"
 Randolph Bourne, "Trans-National America", "Twilight of Idols"

* Horace Kallen, "Democracy and the Melting Pot"

* Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Redefining the Contract"

* John Kenneth Galbraith, "Poverty amid Affluence"

Web: John F. Kennedy, [Inaugural Address](#)

Web: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, [First Inaugural Address](#)

May 25 - The Old Left: Anarchist, Socialist, Communist

- * Earl Browder, "Who are the Americans?"
- * *Manifesto of the Communist Party of the United States of America*
- * Eugene Debs, "Unionism and Socialism"
- * Norman Thomas, "Why I am a Socialist"

Web: Emma Goldman: [Anarchism: What It Really Stands For](#)

Web: Alexander Berkman: [What Is Communist Anarchism?](#)

First Paper	Assigned May 25	Due June 1
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June 1 - Defining Americanism: Anticommunism and the Cold War

- Reinhold Niebuhr, from *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness*
- Sidney Hook, "Communism Without Dogmas"
- Whittaker Chambers, Selection from *Witness*
- Hannah Arendt, "Ideology and Terror"
- C. Wright Mills, "Letter to the New Left"
- Daniel Bell, "The End of Ideology in the West"
- *Daniel Boorstin, *The Genius of American Politics*

June 6 - All that is Solid Melts into Air: the 1960s

- Noam Chomsky, "The Responsibility of Intellectuals," 406-415
- * Herbert Marcuse, "An Essay on Liberation"
- * Tom Hayden, "The Politics of "The Movement"
- * Abbie Hoffman, "The Rising of the Pentagon"

Web: [Port Huron Statement](#)

Web: John Kerry, [Testimony from Winter Soldier investigation](#)

Second Paper	Assigned June 8	Due June 15
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June 8 - Race: The American Dilemma

- W.E.B. DuBois, "Our Spiritual Strivings"
- Gunnar Myrdal, Selection from *An American Dilemma*
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Selection from "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- Malcolm X, Selection from "The Ballot or the Bullet"
- * Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Address"
- * Marcus Garvey, "Building Race Pride"
- * Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream"

Web: Niagara Movement, [Declaration of Principles](#)

June 13 - A Woman's Place

Margaret Mead, Selection from *Coming of Age in Samoa*

Betty Friedan, Selection from *The Feminine Mystique*

- * Gloria Steinem, "If Men Could Menstruate"
- * Phyllis Schlafly, excerpt from *The Power of the Positive Woman*

Web: Jane Addams, [Why Women Should Vote](#),

Web: Margaret Sanger, [excerpt from Woman and the New Race](#).

June 15 - Conservatism: The Old Right and the New Right

- * William F. Buckley, "National Review: Credenda and Statement of Principles"
- * Russell Kirk, "Prescription, Authority, and Ordered Freedom"
- * Barry Goldwater, "The Tide Against Freedom"
- * Francis Schaeffer, "The Abolition of Truth and Morality"
- * John Whitehead, "Adam Redux"

Web: Ronald Reagan, [First Inaugural Address](#)

June 20 - Unconventional Conservatives: Neo-Cons and Libertarians

- * Norman Podhoretz, "Neoconservatism: A Eulogy"
- * Irving Kristol, "When Virtue Loses All Her Loveliness"
- * Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "Dumbing Down Deviancy"
- * Murray Rothbard, Introduction to *For a New Freedom*
- * Milton Freedman, "Laissez-Faire Capitalism"

June 22 - Culture and Politics in Modern America

Thorstein Veblen, from *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

- * Walter Lippman, from *Public Opinion*
- * Sinclair Lewis and Mencken on democracy
- * Daniel Bell, excerpt from *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*
- * James Davison Hunter, excerpt from *Culture Wars*

Final Paper	Assigned June 22	Due June 29 before 5 pm
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Please note: No late papers will be accepted after 12 pm on July 1.