PSC 352.01: American Political Thought and Its Antecedents

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Required Texts: Michael B. Levy, ed., Political Thought in America

John Dewey, The Public and Its Problems

Walter Lippmann, Public Opinion

Reading Assignments and Examination Schedule:

Week of January 16: Levy, pp. 1-47.
   First Examination: Friday, February 17.
Week of February 20: Levy, pp. 272-305.
Week of February 27: Lippmann, Parts 1-3.
Week of March 6: Lippmann, Parts 4-6.
Week of March 20: Lippmann, Parts 7 & 8.
   FIRST DRAFT OF TERM PAPERS DUE MARCH 20.
Week of March 27: Term paper tutorials.
Week of April 3: Dewey, Chapters 1-3.
Week of April 10: Dewey, Chapters 4-6.
   SECOND DRAFT OF TERM PAPERS DUE APRIL 14.
Week of April 17: Term paper tutorials.
Week of April 24: Levy, pp. 419-444, 452-472.
Week of May 1: Levy, 545-580.
   Review for Final Examination.
   

NOTE: Examinations will cover material from the lectures as well as from the reading assignments.
TERM PAPERS: Undergraduate students will prepare a term paper of 5-10 pages in length (graduate students 10-15 pages). The paper will require further research into one of the themes or figures covered in the course reading and/or lectures. Other topics may be approved after consultation with the instructor.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

First examination 20%
Term paper 40%
Final Examination 40%

Wherever the learning process takes place (for example, in the library or the seclusion of one's study) it does so best when there are a minimum of distractions. This requirement poses special challenges for the learning that takes place in the lecture hall or the classroom, where the possibility of distractions is the greatest.

In order to establish and maintain a supportive learning environment for my students, I will not tolerate the few individuals who might be prone to a) come to class late or leave early, b) carry on private conversations during class, or c) use the lecture hall/classroom as an opportunity to read material, such as the Kaimin, that is not relevant to the subject matter under consideration.

The only exception to these conditions concern students whose work schedules or unanticipated appointments require them to arrive for class late or leave early. In these instances I would appreciate knowing of the circumstance before it occurs and, in all such instances, request that students do so as unobtrusively as possible. Thank you.