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PSC 352.01: American Political Thought - Honors

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POLITICAL SCIENCE 352
AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
HONORS SECTION
AUTUMN, 1997
*4 CREDITS
M.W.F 11:00 A.M.
PROFESSOR: PERRIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course studies the formation of a distinctively American political culture with particular emphasis upon the meaning and place of democracy within that culture. Accordingly the course adopts an interdisciplinary approach with which students consider a variety of sources; historical, theoretical, and literary. Included among the required readings are selections from the writings of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Alexis de Tocqueville, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, John Dewey and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will also be required to choose from a representative list of current works in American political thought, using at least one such work as the subject of a term paper and class presentation.

Note: This is a 'W' course. In addition to regular class meetings each student will meet for a minimum of two tutorial sessions with the instructor. The purpose of these sessions is to review early drafts of the term papers. These reviews will address the style, as well as the substance, of the papers.

* This is normally a three credit course. Students should enroll for an additional credit of Independent Study (U 196)

Required Texts: 1. Michael B. Levy, ed. *Political Thought in America*
2. Faculty Pac

Reading Assignments and Class Schedule

Week of September 1: Levy, pp. 1-14, 29-47.

Week of September 8: Levy, pp. 81-85, 96-101, 138-140.
Faculty Pac. Jefferson Selections (Query XIV and Letters).

Week of September 15: Levy, pp. 106-155.

Week of September 22: Faculty Pac, *Marbury v. Madison* and *McCulloch v. Maryland*, Faculty Pac, *Gitlow v. New York*; Sheldon Wolin, Chapter Seven, "*E Pluribus Unum*"

Week of September 29: Schloesser on Mercy Otis Warren (on reserve).
Levy, pp. 273-305.

Week of October 6: Faculty Pac, Wolin, Chapter Four, "Archaism, Modernity, and *Democracy in America*".
Review, MID-TERM EXAMINATION, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10.

Week of October 13: Levy, pp. 306-317, 217-231, Faculty Pac, *Dred Scott v. Sanford*; Whitman, Selection from *Leaves of Grass*.

Week of October 20: Faculty Pac, *Plessey v. Ferguson* and *Brown v. Board of Education*. Levy, pp. 232-256.
FIRST DRAFT OF TERM PAPERS DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25.

Week of October 27: Levy, pp. 257-271. Faculty Pac, Whitman, Selections from *Democratic Vistas*.
Term paper tutorials.

Week of November 3: Faculty Pac, Emerson Essays.

Week of November 10: Levy, pp. 322-330, 403-419.

Week of November 17: Faculty Pac, Selections from Lippman, *Essays in the Public Philosophy*. SECOND DRAFT OF TERM PAPERS DUE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER

Week of November 24: Term papers tutorials, Monday and Tuesday.

Week of December 1: Student Presentations.

Week of December 8: Student Presentations; Review for Final Examination.

FINAL EXAMINATION; TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 8:00-10:00

The final grade will be based on the following performance criteria.

Examinations: 25% each.

Term paper and presentation: 40%.

Class attendance and participation: 10%.