

## American Political Theory

Professor Mark David Hall  
Office: Center Street House  
Phone: (W) x2674 (H) (503) 554-0324  
PSC/HST/PHIL 370

Fall 2010  
PSCI 370  
MWF 9:40-10:30  
Ross 208

Office Hours: MF 2:00-4:00, W 2:00-3:00, TTH 1:30-4:00, or by appointment

This course focuses on the development of American political theory from the Puritans to the twentieth century. We will read some of the best works on politics written by Americans. Each author addresses many of the perennial problems of political theory. We will look at their theoretical conclusions and see how their ideas have had an impact on the political and social development of America.

Because this course is designed as a seminar, regular attendance and preparation are required. Student performance in these areas will be reflected by a 5% participation grade. Three tests will be given for this course (20% each).

Each student will write a 15-17 page research paper on a topic approved by me. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, properly documented, and must argue a thesis. Students should meet with me about a topic and turn in a written topic and list of specific primary and secondary on September 13, a thesis statement, a full bibliography, and a summary of two important essays or book chapters related to your topic on September 29 (2% of grade), a detailed two-three page outline of the paper on October 25 (3%), and the final paper on December 3 (30%). All written work must be turned in by hand and on paper (no e-mail submissions). Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized 3 points every 24-hour period they are late (excluding weekends).

If your topic bears any relation to work you have done or are doing for another class, you must clearly explain the connection to me in your proposal. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the paper and, if egregious enough, the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please let me know. Before you write your paper, I strongly encourage you to buy, read, and carefully consider William Strunk and E.B. White, The Elements of Style.

Required books:

Bruce Frohnen, ed. The American Republic: Primary Sources All assignments are from this book unless otherwise noted.

### Reading Assignments

August

30. Introduction: What is American Political Theory? Sources of American Political Theory. Paper topics.

## September

1. Broad Interpretive Approaches: John Locke, Two Treatises on Government, Book II, chapters 2 and 7, [http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com\\_staticxt&Itemid=28](http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&Itemid=28) [you need to navigate from this link to the book. The online library is a *great* resource, take some time and explore it.]

Mark David Hall, *Vindiciae, Contra Tyrannos*. [Please note: this is two days worth of reading assignments because we do not have class on Friday.]

### **3. No class.**

6. Puritan Political Theory: Frohnen, 3-4, 11-22, 34-35.

### **8. No class, serve day.**

10. Puritan Thought Continued, Nathaniel Ward, excerpts from *Simple Cobbler* (handout).

13. Quaker Political Thought, 23-30; 64-65. Topic due.

15. Dissenters, 42-47, 64, 66-68, 79-87.

17. Nathan O. Hatch, "The Origins of Civil Millennialism in America," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1974 [This article is on JSTOR—find it, print it, and read it.]

20. Defending the Charters: Skim 91-97, Read 115-130.

22. The War for Independence, 140-156.

### **24. No class, work on paper.**

### **27. No class, work on paper.**

29. War for Independence, 159-178. Thesis, etc. due.

## October

1. Thomas Paine and the Declaration, 179-191.

4. Catch up and review.

### **6. TEST #1**

### **8. No class, Fall break.**

11. New State Constitutions and laws: 157-58, 196-99, 205-224.

13. A new nation?: 200-204, 225-230.

15. **No class, work on paper.**

18. A new nation! 231-243.

20. The Federalists: 243-267.

22. The Anti-Federalists: 268-280, 309-319.

25. James Wilson, natural law, and natural rights:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2009/06/Justice-Law-and-the-Creation-of-the-American-Republic-The-Forgotten-Legacy-of-James-Wilson>

27. The Bill of Rights, 327-331, 338-341, 348-354, 69-71. Outline, etc. due.

29. Mark David Hall, “Roger Sherman: An Old Puritan in a New Nation.”

November

1. The New Nation Takes Shape: Role of the Judiciary 366-377.

3. State v. Federal power: 381-402.

5. Catch up and review.

8. **Test #2.**

10. Revival and Reform: Mark Hall, “Beyond Self-Interest”; Woman’s Rights, Seneca Falls Declaration (1848)—any on-line version.

12. **No Class, work on paper**

15. Early Lincoln, 518-27.

17. Slavery, 582-592, 690-701.

19. Slavery, 597-599, 646-664.

22. John C. Calhoun, 565-578.

24. Calhoun-Webster debate, 600-632.

26. **Thanksgiving.**

29. Lincoln and the Civil War, handout.

December

1. Reconstruction, handout.

3. Early twentieth century, handout.

6. Contemporary thought?, handout.

8. Presentation of student papers.

10. Presentation of student papers.

15. Final exam, 10:00.

I retain the right to change any aspect of this syllabus. If I do I will give students plenty of advanced warning. Unless I clearly and unambiguously change something, you should follow this syllabus religiously.

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) provides all students with free writing consultation, general tutoring, and learning enhancement strategies (e.g., techniques to improve reading, note-taking, study, time management). Students can make an appointment with the ARC Writing Center for guidance and feedback on written projects. ARC consultants can also provide basic tutoring for many general education and other courses. Go to [www.georgefox.edu/arc/](http://www.georgefox.edu/arc/) for information about consultants' areas of study, how to schedule an appointment, and helpful learning tools. Call Rick Muthiah, Director of the Academic Resource Center, at x2314 if you have questions. If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services office early in the term so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide current documentation of your disability to Disability Services. For more information, contact Rick Muthiah, Director of Disability Services (x2314 or [rmuthiah@georgefox.edu](mailto:rmuthiah@georgefox.edu)), or go to [ds.georgefox.edu](http://ds.georgefox.edu).