FOCUS

This course examines and focuses on the major trends, themes, and texts in the different periods of American political theory and thought from the colonial period to the present. We will approach the material from the perspective of American political thought being a series of conversations, debates, crises, and “languages”, across ten periods of American history. We will conclude the semester with a discussion of possible future conversations, debates and crises.

TEXTS

Required:


Recommended:


There will be additional readings handed out over the course of the semester.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm Examination 20%
Research Paper 30%
Final Examination 30%
Class Citizenship 20%
The midterm examination and the final examination are both in essay format.

CLASS POLICIES

1) Students are responsible for all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class, tardiness and failure to participate in class discussion will negatively affect your grade in this class (class citizenship portion of the course grade).

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will be punished to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas. (See Below)

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no make-up exams will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments during the semester. Every calendar late that an assignment is will result in a reduction of a full letter grade.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in this course except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

PLAGIARISM

The following are some dictionary definitions of plagiarism:

- “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” (Collins).
- “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).
- “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster).

Plagiarism also includes:
- “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
• “Text recycling” - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

Common student misconceptions on plagiarism\(^3\):

• “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”

• “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students\(^4\):

• Citation Guidelines
  
  - Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed
  
  - An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing (This will be discussed in greater detail when the paper topics are handed out).

• Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:
  
  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.
  
  - the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).
  
  - that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS

August 25 - Introduction to the Course

Topic One:  Introduction: Three American “Languages” (Abbott)

Topic Two:  Inventing New Communities (Abbott, Chapter 1)

\(^3\) Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.

\(^4\) Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
**Topic Three:** Revolution (Abbott, Chapter 2)

**Topic Four:** Founding (Abbott, Chapter 3)

**Topic Five:** Faction (Abbott, Chapter 4)

**Topic Six:** Civil War (Abbott, Chapter 5)

**Topic Seven:** Industrialization (Abbott, Chapter 6)

**Topic Eight:** Depression (Abbott, Chapter 7)

**Topic Nine:** Cold War (Abbott, Chapter 8)

**Topic Ten:** Discrimination (Abbott, Chapter 9)

**Topic Eleven:** 9/11 and the War on Terror (Abbott, Chapter 10)

**Topic Twelve:** The Next Crisis: Globalization and the End of American Exceptionalism? (Abbott, Chapter 11)

**Important Dates:**
- No Class, Tuesday, October 13, Fall Break
- No Class, Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Break
- Last Day of Class, Thursday, December 3
- Research Paper is due on December 3
- Thursday, December 10, Final Examination, 8:00AM-10:30AM

**PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

The paper must be 8 to 10 pages in length (graduate students, 15 to 20 pages in length). It must be typed, double-spaced, paginated, stapled and must use an academically accepted format for footnotes, citations and reference pages. A list of possible paper topics will be handed out next week. The topic, once chosen, will have to be turned in to the instructor on **October 20**. This will have to be accompanied by a brief bibliography. Since this is a research project, 6 to 8 sources must be cited, with at least four being from recent scholarly publications. In addition, periodicals, magazines and newspapers may be used. Some of the major scholarly journals in political science are:

*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*Journal of Politics*
Political Behavior
Public Opinion Quarterly
American Politics Research
Legislative Studies Quarterly
Presidential Studies Quarterly
Congress & the Presidency
PS: Political Science & Politics
Perspectives in Politics
Review of Politics
Political Research Quarterly
Policy Studies Review
Journal of Public Policy
Policy Studies
State Politics and Policy Quarterly
Southeastern Political Review
Polity

Examples of other sources are periodicals such as The Brookings Review, and Cato; magazines such as The New Republic, The Progressive, and The National Review; and newspapers such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor and the Washington Times.