

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
POLS 150
Spring 2020
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30 – 9:45 AM
Candler Library 101

Professor: Ahmed Siddiqi
Office: Tarbutton Hall, 217D
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM, or by appointment
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Course Description

This class is a study of the basic principles of American political life: democracy, equality, and liberty. Through a close reading of core texts of the American political tradition, we will attempt to see how these ideas took hold in the US, what arguments were made on their behalf, and what possible pitfalls there are for a society dedicated to those ideas. The course will proceed entirely through a close reading of primary sources. There will be units on John Locke and the basic principles of liberal democracy, on the ratification debate, on Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, on race and civil rights, and on the competing visions of progressivism and conservatism.

Participation in this course includes attendance at the four Emory Williams Memorial Lectures, each of which will take place on a Wednesday afternoon from 4:30–5:30 (locations TBD). This semester they are as follows:

1. February 5, Elizabeth Pastan (Art History), “The Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris”
2. February 26, Melvin Konner (Anthropology), “Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*”
3. March 18, Andra Gillespie (Political Science), “Martin Luther King’s ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail’”
4. April 1, David Guidot (Medical School), “Gray’s *Anatomy*”

Students who are unable to attend these lectures must view them online and write a 500-word summary of each. Summaries that are accepted will receive full credit.

Class Meetings

The class sections will proceed mainly by way of close textual analysis. Make sure you do each reading carefully before coming to class. You are required to bring your copy of the assigned text to every class so that you can follow the discussions. Roughly once per week, there will be pop quizzes to ensure that you are doing the reading.

Turn off all cell phones before class. Use of laptops is not permitted, except with special permission.

Course Requirements and Grading

25% — First essay, due Tuesday, February 25
5-7 double-spaced pages on an assigned topic

25% — Second essay, due Tuesday, April 14
5-7 double-spaced pages on an assigned topic

Essays turned in late will be penalized 5 points per calendar day after the deadline

30% — Final exam, Wednesday, May 6, 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Closed book, consisting of short answer and long essay questions covering the entire semester

10% — Reading quizzes, roughly once per week
Consisting of four multiple choice questions each
Quizzes cannot be made up; two lowest quiz grades will be dropped

10% — Class and EWM Lecture Attendance
Each unexcused absence from class after the second will subtract 2 points from final grade
10 or more total absences from class will result in automatic failure
Each unexcused absence from EWM lectures will subtract 2 points from final grade
All attendance penalties are capped at 10 points

Grading Policy

We will use the plus/minus grading system for this class. Quizzes, tests, and attendance will be graded numerically. Papers will be given letter grades on the basis of both substance and style. In order to calculate your final grade, these will be translated into number grades as follows:

A: 96; A–: 91; B+: 88; B: 84.5; B–: 81; C+: 78; C: 74.5; C–: 71; D: 65; F: 30

Final grades are calculated numerically, then translated into a letter grade using the following scale. **Please note: grades will not be rounded up.**

A: 93–100; A–: 90–92; B+: 87–89; B: 83–86; B–: 80–82; C+: 77–79; C: 73–76; C–: 70–72; D: 60–69;
F: below 59.

Required Texts

The following texts *and editions* are required for this class. No other translations or editions may be used. You should *always* bring the book we are discussing that day to class.

John Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Hackett Publishing Company. ISBN 0915144867.

Hamilton, Madison, Jay. *The Federalist Papers*. Introduction by Charles Kesler, edited by Clinton Rossiter. Signet Classics. ISBN 0451528816.

The Anti-Federalist: An Abridgement. Edited by Herbert Storing, selected by Murray Dry. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0226775658.

Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*. Trans. Harvey Mansfield. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0226805360.

Booker T. Washington. *Up from Slavery*. Dover Classics. ISBN 0486287386.

W.E.B. DuBois. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Dover Classics. ISBN 0486280411.

James Baldwin. *The Fire Next Time*. Vintage. ISBN 067974472X.

Other Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor(s) with an accommodation notification letter from Access, Disabilities Services and Resources office. Students are expected to give two weeks-notice of the need for accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to meet with instructor(s) as soon as your accommodations have been finalized.

Academic Support

There are a range of resources available to Emory undergraduates designed to enrich each student's educational experiences. Visit <http://college.emory.edu/oue/student-support/index.html> for a list of student programs and appointment directions.

Counseling & Psychological Services

Emory's Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling for enrolled students at Emory University. All of the services offered at CAPS are included in the Mental Health and Counseling Fee of fully registered Emory students. The staff at CAPS values the of diversity and works to empower students who embody diversity in all its forms. We know that student life is a transitional period and can bring pressure and stress. We try to help students understand this period, find ways of coping with daily stressors and times of crisis, and grow from their experiences

Honor Code

The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.

Provisional Schedule of Readings

This is a loose outline, subject to change at professor's discretion

Tuesday, January 14: Introduction

Thursday, January 16: John Locke, *Second Treatise*, Chapters 1–5, 7

Tuesday, January 21: *Second Treatise*, 8–14

Thursday, January 23: *Second Treatise*, Chapter 19; Federalist 1, 39; Patrick Henry 5.16.1–2 (AF, 295–300)

Tuesday, January 28: Federalist 2–8

Thursday, January 30: Federalist 11–12, 14; Melancton Smith Speech from June 21, 1788 (AF, 338–344); Federal Farmer II, III (2.8.24–27 only) (AF, 39–45)

Tuesday, February 4: Federalist 9, 10, 35; Brutus I (AF, 108–117)

Wednesday, February 5: Emory Williams Memorial Lecture #1

Thursday, February 6: Federalist 37, 47–48, 51; Centinel I (2.7.1–9 only) (AF 13–16)

Tuesday, February 11: Federalist 52–53, 55 (last paragraph only); Federal Farmer VII (AF 73–79); Brutus III (2.9.42–end only), Brutus IV (2.9.45–48 only) (AF 124–129)

Thursday, February 13: Federalist 84; Brutus II (AF, 117–122); Excerpts from Wilson and Madison

Tuesday, February 18: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume I, Introduction

Thursday, February 20: *Democracy in America*, I.1.2–3, II.2.1

Tuesday, February 25: ***First essay due*** *Democracy in America*, I.2.1, I.2.7, II.1.1–2, II.1.5

Wednesday, February 26: Emory Williams Memorial Lecture #2

Thursday, February 27: *Democracy in America*, I.2.9

Tuesday, March 3: *Democracy in America*, II.2.2–12

Thursday, March 5: *Democracy in America*, II.2.13–20, II.4.6–8

Tuesday, March 10: SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

Thursday, March 12: SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

Tuesday, March 17: *Democracy in America*, I.2.10, pp. 302–307 and 326–348 only

Wednesday, March 18: Emory Williams Memorial Lecture #3

Thursday, March 19: Excerpts from essays and speeches of Frederick Douglass

Tuesday, March 24: Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*, Chapter 1, Chapter 8, Chapter 11, Chapter 14; Excerpts

Thursday, March 26: W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Forethought, Chapters 1, 3, 6; “The Talented Tenth”

Tuesday, March 31: *The Souls of Black Folk*, Chapters 9–10; “The Conservation of the Races”

Wednesday, April 1: Emory Williams Memorial Lecture #4

Thursday, April 2: Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”; Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”

Tuesday, April 7: James Baldwin, “Down at the Cross” (in *The Fire Next Time*)

Thursday, April 9: Seventh Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Tuesday, April 14: ***Second essay due*** John Dewey, *Liberalism and Social Action* (Excerpts);

Woodrow Wilson, “What is Progress?” and “Socialism and Democracy”; Frank Goodnow, “The American Conception of Liberty”

Thursday, April 16: Wilson, “The Study of Administration”

Tuesday, April 21: Wilson, “The President of the United States”; Theodore Roosevelt, “The Presidency: Making an Old Party Progressive” and “The New Nationalism”

Thursday, April 23: Calvin Coolidge, “The Inspiration of the Declaration”; Winston Churchill, “What Good’s a Constitution?”; Ronald Reagan, “A Time for Choosing” and “First Inaugural Address”

Wednesday, May 6: **Final Exam**, 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM