



Core Curriculum Supplement

Academic Unit / Office Political Science

Catalog Year of Implementation 2017-2018

Course (Prefix / Number) POLS / 3349

Course Title Foundations in American Political Thought

Core Proposal Request

- Add course to Core Curriculum
 Revise course already in Core Curriculum

	Current Core Categorization <small>(Fill out this column completely)</small>	Proposed Changes to Categorization <small>(For this column, only fill out the fields being REVISED)</small>
Foundational Component Area (must select one)	N/A (Not currently a Core course)	Government/Political Science
Component Area Option (optional)	N/A (No Component Area Option)	Writing in the Disciplines
Category Listing: Single or Double?	N/A (Not currently a Core course)	List under Component Area Option ONLY.

Core Proposal Rationale

Under the recently changed requirements for our Major, a student must take one of three Theory courses. As of now only one of those three is a WID course. This is a request that the above, POLS 3349, be made WID so that Political Science majors will be able to fulfill their core requirements while working towards their major, without being forced to take POLS 3310 [currently WID] to do so.

Core Objectives

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Responsibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empirical & Quantitative Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Responsibility |

Please explain how any of the above selected Core Objectives will be met.

When submitting this form, please remember to attach a syllabus, learning objectives, and/or sample lesson(s).

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Political Science 3349
American Political Thought
Fall 2015**

Tues/Thur
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Office Hours: T/TH 9-10

“Confidence is everywhere the parent of despotism—free government is founded in jealousy, and not in confidence.”

Thomas Jefferson 1798

“It is not wisdom alone, but public confidence in that wisdom which can support an adm[inistration].”

Thomas Jefferson 1824

The above selections from Jefferson suggest a movement in American political history from a government grounded in separation of powers to a government grounded in popular sovereignty. But they also point to a contradiction at the heart of American constitutionalism. We live in the most powerful nation in the world, yet we are perhaps also the people most suspicious of governmental power—even when “we the people” wield it. This suggests another problem: we are at once convinced of American exceptionalism (hence a course titled “American political thought”), yet at the same we wonder whether America is now experiencing its inevitable decline. This course will not solve these problems. But we will encounter them by considering key arguments in the American political tradition.

In addition to these questions, this course will explore the treatment of nature and the environment in American political thought. We will confront the greatest proponent of a return to nature in the works of Henry Thoreau, as well as revisit the contest between whites and Native Americans in the early republic. Readings related to nature are marked with an “*”.

Required Texts

1. Isaac Kramnick and Theodore J. Lowi, *American Political Thought: A Norton Anthology* (Norton, 2009)
2. Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (Yale UP)

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will acquire familiarity with the core texts and figures in American political thought.
2. Students will acquire familiarity with the major events in the history of constitutionalism in the United States.
3. Students will improve their ability to read and assess political arguments.

Requirements

Class Participation

The success of our class depends upon the quality of student participation. To this end, students should have carefully read and thought about the assigned reading before they come to class. Also, students should purchase the editions of books listed above as well as have them in class. Class attendance and participation will count as 10% of the final grade.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken. For every absence after your second, your class participation grade will be lowered by a letter grade (for example, from an A- to a B-). Those who are frequently late will be considered absent for each late arrival.

Papers

You will be asked to write two short response papers and one longer paper in place of a final exam. The response papers should be no longer than three pages, and the final paper 7-8 pages.

The short papers will count as 20% of your grade (10% each), and the longer paper as 40% of your grade. The short papers should be turned in on the day of the text to which you choose to respond. These papers are short for a reason. The writing should be tight and precise, with attention to analysis of the text in question.

Late papers will be penalized one letter grade, starting at 15 minutes after the beginning of class and then again per day.

Exam

There will a midterm exam, which will be blue book format. Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, no student will be allowed to take an exam early or reschedule it. Travel arrangements do not constitute extraordinary. The midterm exam will be on October 1st. The exam will count as 30% of your grade.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work without proper credit; it will not be tolerated. Though we will discuss academic integrity in class, you are responsible for understanding and avoiding plagiarism in the work you submit. *The standard sanction for a violation of Academic Policy is failure in the course and a notation on the academic record. Sanctions can also include suspension from the university.* You can learn about the University's policy in the Student Handbook or online at:

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/general/acade2.html#honesty>

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The American with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that the university make reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities as defined in the act. Students who feel they need assistance under the ADA guidelines should approach the instructor to discuss such consideration.

Tuesday, August 25: Course Introduction

Thursday, August 27: The Declaration of Independence

Jefferson (K&L, 151-54)

Tuesday, September 1: Colonial Foundations

Winthrop (K&L, 11-23)

Franklin (K&L, 53-73)

Thursday, September 3: The Revolution

Otis (K&L, 100-107)

Boucher (113-118)

John Adams (119-130)

Tuesday, September 8: The Constitution

Articles, Hamilton, and Constitution (K&L, 155-180)

Thursday, September 10: The Constitution: Critics

Lee?, Yates?, and Henry (K&L, 248-273)

Tuesday, September 15: The Constitution: Defenders

Federalist Nos. 1, 9, 10 (K&L, 199-205)

Thursday, September 17

Federalist Nos. 23, 39, 48, 51 (K&L, 205-223)

****Thursday is Constitution Day. Special Constitution Day talk on Friday in Honors****

Tuesday, September 22: The Constitution: Defenders

Federalist Nos. 70 and 78 (K&L, 223-236)

Thursday, September 24 The Bill of Rights

Federalist No. 84, Madison, and Bill of Rights (K&L, 236-244, 274-283)

Tuesday, September 29 Review/Catch Up

Thursday, October 1 Test

Tuesday, October 6: Age of Federalism

Hamilton (K&L, 297-319)

Thursday, October 8: Age of Federalism

Marshall (K&L, 323-337)

Tuesday, October 13: Revolution of 1800

Jefferson (K&L, 337-366)

Thursday, October 15: Revolution of 1800

Jefferson (K&L, 366-375)

Tuesday, October 20: Nature

Locke, chapter on property from *Second Treatise* to be distributed*

Thursday, October 22: Nature and the Indians

Knox, Letter to Washington, to be distributed

Jefferson, Letter to Harrison (1803), to be distributed*

Jefferson, Second Inaugural, to be distributed*

Tuesday, October 27 : Nature and the Indians

(selections from Indian speeches to be distributed)

Thursday, October 29 Jacksonian Democracy

Jackson (K&L, 419-442)

Tuesday, November 3 Individualism and Democracy

Emerson (K&L, 471-484)*

Thoreau (K&L, 484-496)*

Thursday, November 5: Thoreau

Thoreau, *Walden*, 1-86*

Tuesday, November 10: Thoreau

Thoreau, *Walden*, 86-242*

Thursday, November 12: Thoreau

Thoreau, *Walden*, 243-362*

Tuesday, November 17: Slavery and Free Labor

Calhoun (K&L, 601-624)

Taney (K&L, 644-647)

Thursday, November 19: Slavery and Free Labor

Lincoln (K&L, 649-685)

Tuesday, November 24: Empire and Race

Roosevelt (K&L, 907-910)*

Sumner (K&L, 921-26)*

Chief Joseph (K&L, 928-940)*

Chief Joseph, Crazy Horse, and Smohalla (K&L, 940-42)*

Thursday, November 26 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Tuesday, December 1: The New Deal

Hoover (K&L, 1133-1147)

FDR (K&L, 1164-1190)

Thursday, December 3: The Cold War, the 1960's, and modern liberalism

Kennan (K&L, 1217-1222)

Students for a Democratic Society (K&L, 1290-1301)*

Bloom (K&L, 1438-1449)

Sandel (K&L, 1477-1494)

McKibben (K&L, 1503-1511)*