Louisiana State University
Political Science 4080: American Political Thought
Fall 2008
Syllabus

Description, Meeting Room, Meeting Time:

The development of the American liberal-democratic tradition, and dissent to that
tradition. This is Section 1 of Poli 4080. Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:40 am –
Noon in Taylor Hall (CEBA) room 1114.

Instructor:

Luigi Bradizza
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Office hours: Tuesdays 12:10-1:10; Thursdays 9:30-10:30; and by appointment. Office
location: Stubbs Hall 239.

Required Texts:

0671657151]
Kenneth M. Dolbeare and Michael S. Cummings, American Political Thought, 5th ed.
0451528816]
Other required material is available on the Internet; follow the links provided below.

Recommended Text:

Bryan-Paul Frost and Jeffrey Sikkenga, eds., History of American Political Thought
(Lexington Books, 2003) [ISBN: 0739106244] (One copy will be placed on reserve in
the library.)

Grading Scheme:

Daily quizzes: 15%
Mid-term examination: 25%
Term paper: 25%
Final Exam: 35%
The term paper should be 2,500 to 3,000 words. It is due on November 25. A list of topics will be provided separately.

Readings:

Aug 26 Introduction to course

Aug 28 The Christian Founding
   John Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity” (1630)
   [http://religiousfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/charity.html];
   Winthrop, “The Little Speech” (1639) [D&C, pp. 15-18; see also Joseph H. Twichell, John Winthrop, First Governor of the Massachusetts Colony (1891), pp. 6-9, at:
   http://books.google.com/books?id=__AEAAAAAYAAJ];
   Roger Williams, “The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution” (1644)
   [http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/bdorsey1/c1/docs/31-wil.html];
   John Wise, “Democracy is Founded in Scripture” (1717) [D&C, pp. 18-24];
   Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1835), I.ii
   [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/deto/1_ch02.htm]

Sept 2 Early Constitutionalism
   Mayflower Compact (1620)
   [http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amerdoc/mayflower.htm];
   Articles, Laws, &c. for the Colony in Virginia (1610-11)
   [http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=694&chapter=102705&layout=html&Itemid=27; read only sec. 69];
   Massachusetts Body of Liberties (1641)
   [http://www.constitution.org/bcp/nabodlib.htm];
   Pennsylvania Charter of Liberties (1701)
   Benjamin Franklin, “Observations concerning the Increase of Mankind, the Peopling of Countries, etc.” (1751);
   “Great Law of Peace of the Iroquois Nations” (n.d.);
   “Short Hints toward a Scheme for Uniting the Northern Colonies” and
   “The Albany Plan for Union” (1754) [D&C, pp. 24-34]
   [Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of "W".]

Sept 4 America’s Lockean Roots
   John Locke, Second Treatise,
   ch. 2, sec. 4, 6-8, 14
   ch. 3, sec. 16-17, 19-21
ch. 4, sec. 23
ch. 5, sec. 27, 34, 37, 41-44
ch. 6, sec. 54
ch. 8, sec. 95
ch. 9, sec. 123-31
ch. 11, sec. 134-42
ch. 14, sec. 159-60
ch. 16, sec. 175, 177-80, 182, 190-92
ch. 19, sec. 222-25, 230, 243
[http://www.constitution.org/jl/2ndtreat.htm]

Sept 9  The Political Crisis and the Case for Independence
Samuel Adams, “Rights of the Colonists” (1772) [D&C, pp. 35-38];
Thomas Jefferson, “Summary View of the Rights of British America”
(1774) [http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch14s10.html];
Samuel Langdon, “Government Corrupted by Vice” (1775)
[http://www.belcherfoundation.org/government_corrupted.htm];
John Adams, “Thoughts on Government” (1776);
Thomas Paine, “Common Sense” (1776);
Paine, “The American Crisis I” (1777);
Paine, “Rights of Man” (1791) [D&C, pp. 39-48; 58-63]
[Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes.]

Sept 11  From the Declaration to the Constitution
Declaration of Independence (1776);
Articles of Confederation (1777);
Adams, “Defense of the Constitutions of the United States” (1787);
Constitution (1787-91) [D&C, pp. 49-57, 63-67, 68-79]
Thomas G. West, “The Declaration of Independence, the U.S.
Constitution, and the Bill of Rights,” (2002), excerpt [online]

Sept 16  The Case for the Constitution: Reflection, Choice, and Science
Hamilton, Madison, Jay, The Federalist (1787-88), nos. 1, 2, 6, 9, 10

Sept 18  The Case for the Constitution: Federalism

Sept 23  The Case for the Constitution: Separation of Powers
The Federalist, nos. 47-51, 55-56, 62, 70, 78, 84-85

Sept 25  The Case Against the Constitution
Dissent of the Pennsylvania Minority (1787);
Letter of Samuel Adams (1787);
Letters from the Federal Farmer, I, IV, V (1787) [D&C, pp. 114-127]
Letters of Brutus, I, XI, XV (1787-88)
Sept 30  A Commercial Republic?
Alexander Hamilton, “Report on Credit” (1790);
“Opinion on the Constitutionality of the Bank” (1791);
“Report on Manufactures” (1791) [D&C, pp. 127-40];
Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia (1785), queries 19-20
Jefferson, “Opinion on the Constitutionality of a National Bank” (1791)
[http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amerdoc/bank-tj.htm];
Marc F. Plattner, “American Democracy and the Acquisitive Spirit,” in
Goldwin & Shamba, eds, How Capitalistic is the Constitution?

Oct 2  For and Against Slavery
William Lloyd Garrison, No Compromise with Slavery (1850)
[http://books.google.com/books?id=2NhylzzEAIAJ];
Frederick Douglass, “Speech at the Antislavery Association” (1848);
“The Various Phases of Anti-Slavery” (1855);
John C. Calhoun, “A Disquisition on Government” (1848);
George Fitzhugh, “Cannibals All!” (1857) [D&C, pp. 206-232]

Oct 7  Clarifying Principle: Popular Sovereignty or Equal Rights?
233-36];
Lincoln, Speech at Springfield, June 16, 1858 (“House Divided”)
[http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/divided.htm];
Douglas, Speech at Chicago, July 9, 1858
rint=156];
Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Debate no. 1, August 21, 1858, Ottawa, Ill
[http://www.nps.gov/archive/liho/debate1.htm]

Oct 9  Fall holiday. No Class.

Oct 14  Women, Blacks, and Democracy
John and Abigail Adams, Correspondence (1776);
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments” (1848);
Stanton, Address to the New York Legislature (1860);
Excerpt from “The Revolution” and Stanton’s Statement (1869);
Debates at the Meeting of the Equal Rights Association (1869);
Susan B. Anthony, Statement and Petition (1873-74)
[D&C, pp. 67-68, 201-05, 264-71];
W. E. B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) [D&C 329-41]

Oct 16  Mid-semester exam

Oct 21  Radicalism, Right and Left
William Graham Sumner, *What Social Classes Owe to Each Other* (1884);
Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For” (1907);
Goldman, “The Tragedy of Women’s Emancipation” (1910);
Eugene V. Debs, “Revolutionary Unionism” (1905);
Debs, Speech to the Jury (1918) [D&C, pp. 272-85, 341-69]

Oct 23  Progressivism: The Social Gospel
[http://books.google.com/books?id=87dKAAAAMAAJ];
[http://books.google.com/books?id=rIQLAAAAMAAJ]

Oct 28  Progressivism: Secular Reformers
Herbert Croly, “The Promise of American Life” (1909);
The Progressive Party Platform (1912);
Progressive Constitutional Amendments (1910, 1913-33);
Frederick W. Taylor, “The Nature of Scientific Management” (1912);

Oct 30  Liberalism and Democracy
Walter Lippmann, *Public Opinion* (1922), ch. 16-20
[http://books.google.com/books?id=eLobn4WwbLUC]

Nov 4  Liberalism and the Press

Nov 6  Liberalism and Scientific Expertise

[Nov 7  Final date for resigning from the University and/or dropping courses. Final
date to request rescheduling a final examination when three examinations are
scheduled in 24 hours.]

Nov 11 The New Deal
John Dewey, “The Public and Its Problems” (1927);
Franklin D. Roosevelt, “The Commonwealth Club Address” (1932);
Roosevelt, Campaign Address (1936);
Roosevelt, “An Economic Bill of Rights” (1944) [D&C, pp. 397-420]
Lawrence Stratton & Paul Craig Roberts, "The Fed’s ‘Depression’ and the Birth of the New Deal" (2001)
[http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3476271.html]

Nov 13 Third Wave Liberalism
John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address (1961);
Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail (1963);
Students for a Democratic Society, Port Huron Address (1962);
Betty Friedan, "Our Revolution is Unique" (1968);
Aldo Leopold, "A Sand County Almanac" (1966/1949)
[D&C, pp. 430-466];
Memoirs v. Mass. (1966), excerpts from Clark and Douglas opinions [online];
Harris v. Macrae (1980), excerpt from Marshall dissent [online];
Bill Clinton, "Remarks at Human Rights Campaign Dinner," November 8, 1997 [online]

Nov 18 A Conservative Reaction and a Liberal Counter-reaction
[http://www.cooperativeindividualism.org/jaffa-harry_equality-as-conservative-principle.html];
Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address (1981);
Reagan, State of the Union Address (1984);
Christopher Lasch, “The Culture of Narcissism” (1979);
Lasch, “Women and the Common Life” (1997);
NCCB, “Economic Justice for All” (1986);
Miscellaneous constitutional amendments (1952-89);
[D&C, pp. 466-504]

Nov 20 Liberal Relativism

Nov 25 A Conservative Response to Relativism
Allan Bloom, The Closing of the American Mind, pp. 19-81
[Term paper due.]

Nov 27 Thanksgiving holiday. No class.

Dec 2 The Social Consequences of Relativism
Bloom, The Closing of the American Mind, pp. 82-137
The University and the Crisis of Modernity
Bloom, The Closing of the American Mind, pp. 336-382
Dec 4  Final regular class meeting. Review and conclusion.

Dec 8–13  Final Exam. Location and date to be announced.