

American Political Thought

Welcome To American Political Thought

This course explores American political thought from the American Revolution to the contemporary era. We will focus upon a collection of American thinkers from across the spectrum of American political thought and explore the boundaries of American political thought and practice.

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, you should:

- Demonstrate the ability to read and evaluate the texts we have read and the kinds of arguments encountered during the course.
- Articulate contrasting points of view on major political issues.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of political theory as a field of study and major themes in American Political Thought
- Be able to effectively express your views on political inquiry in writing.
- Describe and evaluate the impact of government and social institutions on the lives of individuals and society.

Contacts and Communication

Office Hours: I will be available in my office every Monday and Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 PM.

However, I am also happy to schedule a zoom meeting at another time, just send me an email and we can arrange a time.

Email: kscofield@tamusa.edu

Phone Number: 979-803-1653 This is a google voice number. If you hate to email feel free to call or text. Just make sure I know who you are and what you are texting about.

Communicating with the Class: I will leave information that the whole class may need to know on the “Announcement” tab on Blackboard.

Textbooks

Please do not purchase any of the textbooks until the first day of class. I want to make sure everyone is set up on Perusall correctly because we will be purchasing books through there.

- The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good? By Michael Sandel
- American Political Thought, 1e Whittington, 2024 Oxford University Press

Course Schedule

Date	Readings	Assignments Due	Notes
Mon, Aug 24			Class Introduction
Wed, Aug 26	Chapter 1 of American Political Thought		
Mon, Aug 31	APT pg 33-39		Common Sense
Wed, Sep 2	APT pg 87-89 and 92-93		TJ and Adams
Mon, Sep 7			<i>Labor Day – No Classes</i>

Date	Readings	Assignments Due	Notes
Wed, Sep 9	APT 94-99	Reflection Paper One Due	Ham
Mon, Sep 14	APT 100-110		Madison
Wed, Sep 16	APT 111-118 and 123-125		Brutus
Mon, Sep 21	APT 221-222 and 225-226 and 227-228	Reflection Paper Two Due	GW, JQA, Monroe
Wed, Sep 23	APT 243 to 249 and 257-261		Calhoun and Emerson
Mon, Sep 28	APT 269-270 and 271-275		Freedom ECS Truth FD
Wed, Sep 30	APT 288-290 298-303	Reflection Paper 3 Due	Clay, Jackson, CN
Mon, Oct 5		Exam One in Class	
Wed, Oct 7		Podcast Due	Part of reflection grade DIA- non US perspective
Mon, Oct 12	APT 314-320 and 325-326 and 340-342		Lincoln, Stevens
Wed, Oct 14	APT 343-346, 359-360, 390-392		Anthony, Washington
Mon, Oct 19	APT 432-435, 436-439	Reflection Paper 4 Due	TR, Wilson
Wed, Oct 21	APT 440-445 456-461		Dewey, Web
Mon, Oct 26	APT 466-469 470-473, 481-483, 505-507		ED, Goldman, Hoover
Wed, Oct 28	APT 569-570 and 571-574		Goldwater and Friedman
Mon, Nov 2	APT 579-582	Reflection 5 Due	Rawls
Wed, Nov 4	APT 597-604 and 605-609		King and Little
Mon, Nov 9		Exam 2	
Wed, Nov 11	TOM Intro and CH 1		
Mon, Nov 16	TOM CH 3		
Wed, Nov 18	TOM Ch 4		
Mon, Nov 23	TOM CH 5		
Wed, Nov 25			<i>Reading Day – No Classes</i>
Mon, Nov 30	TOM CH 6		
Wed, Dec 2	Tom Ch 7		

Grades for the Course

Course Reflection Papers (25%)

Students will write a total of 5 brief reflection papers for the class. Reflection papers will encourage students reflect on what we have reading in class up to that point, and encourage them to find a common theme in the readings. Individual prompts will be posted online a week before they are due. Essays will be short (500-1000 words). Students should be prepared to discuss papers in class the day they are due in order to receive full credit for the assignment. Students should not use AI to construct these assignments.

Course Readings (25%)

Readings for each class will be posted in Perusall. They will be due before class starts. Students will not be able to complete readings late, since we will be discussing readings in class. Perusall will evaluate quality of student's reading and comments and give a grade. Ordinarily a 1 will score between a 0 and a 70 depending on the amount of time spent on the reading, a 2=85 and 3=100. These grades will be averaged together to form the reading grade. I will drop two reading grades.

Exams One and Two (20%)

There will be two in-class short answer exams in this class. Each will count for 10% of the student's grade.

Participation and Attendance (15%)

This grade will be based on student's attendance in class as well as their willingness to participate in each class/discussion. This is a small class that is largely based on discussion of the readings (rather than lecture) so attendance is very important. More than two absences will count against the student's grade.

Final In-Class Paper (15%)

Students will complete a final in-class essay based on the book on the Tyranny of Merit. This will be done during the 2 hour final exam period.

Class Policies

Late Work Policy

I will not accept late reading assignments, because readings are designed to be discussed in class, instead I will drop two reading assignments. For the 6 individual assignments, students will receive 20% off of the grade for each day it is late, since these reflection essays will be assigned in Class.

AI Policy

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's

standards of academic integrity. The prohibition on the use of AI extends to answering questions in Perusall. Students suspected of using AI will be asked to give an oral defense of their work.

Course Schedule

Please note that while I will try my best to keep to this schedule, the course schedule is subject to change. If changes need to be made, I will post an updated schedule on Blackboard under the syllabus tab. All assignments are due BEFORE class time on the date assigned.

General School Policies and Resources

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend by the census date will have their financial aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester, a Care report will be submitted, and you will possibly be dropped from the class. Your financial aid may have to be recalculated and a portion of your federal aid may have to be returned to the DoE.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or

medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence.

Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.