

Course Syllabus: Political Science 4302: American Political Thought

Dr. Mark Saad Saka/Sul Ross State University

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to examine American political thought since its colonial influences, the formation of our Republic during the Constitutional and early Republican era (1775-1800), the Early Republic (1800-1828), the National Era 1828-1860), Slavery, Freedom, Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1876); Industrial America, Capitalism, Labor, Reformism, and the New America (1876-1920), the New Deal and the American World Empire (1932-1960s), Civil Rights and the Meaning of Full Citizenship (1945-1980s), modern conservatism, identity politics, and the post-materialist

Course Required Readings

Kersch, Ken. *American Political Thought: An Invitation*. Polity Press, 2021, ISBN # 9-781509-530335

Course Requirements

There are a number of requirements for this course.

1. Regular and punctual attendance. My lectures will be recorded on Blackboard so in the event that you miss a lecture, you can access them through Blackboard Collaborate.
2. Obtain the book and read it.
3. Four exams, and a final exam. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple choice worth 2 points each and two essays worth 25 points each. The final exam will consist of 50 multiple choice worth 1 point each and one essay worth 50 points.
4. Block One will cover chapters one and two in textbook; Block Two will cover chapters three and four in textbook; Exam # 3 will cover chapters five and six in textbook, Exam # 4 will cover chapters seven and eight in textbook.
5. At the end of the course, I will add up your five exams. (450-500=A; 400-450=B; 350=400=C; 300-150=D; 0-300=F)
6. Open debate—all ideas are open on the table and can be discussed. My commitment to the 1st Amendment and Free Speech is total—but not completely--vulgarity, profanity, and racially or gendered attacks upon another student or ideas can create a hostile environment. Let us just be civil with one another and we can all learn.
7. A happy smile-a positive attitude will help you enjoy this course much more than if you are wearing a frown!

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students who need accessibility services should contact Rebecca Wren at 432-837-8691; Ferguson Hall Room 112.

Marketability Skills of a History Major

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.

Students can manage the absorption of data.

Academic Honesty The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. "Cheating" includes: 1. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same. 2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test. 3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work. 4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a nonadministered test. 5. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit. 6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a nonadministered test. 7. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist. 8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit. 9. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. 10. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials. 11. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem,

assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.
12. "Falsification of Data" means the representation, claim, or use of research, data, statistics, records, files, results, or information that is falsified, fabricated, fraudulently altered, or otherwise misappropriated or misrepresented.

All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean and eventually, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. The decision of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be final.

Important Dates-The dates for the exams will be announced in class.

Aug. 31-first class day

Nov. 17-last day to withdraw from class with the letter grade of "W."

Nov. 23-Thanks-giving holiday-no class

Nov. 30-last class day-final exam