

Dept. of Political Science
Brigham Young University

Winter 2008
(Second Block)

PL SC 323 Modern American Political Thought
Classes: 280 SWKT; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am to 9:50am

Instructor: Brent Gilchrist
Office: 730 SWKT
Office Hours: WF 10:00 to 10:50am and by individual arrangements
Phone: 422-7807 (office) 794-2046 (home)
email: brent_gilchrist@byu.edu

Required Texts (available at BYU bookstore):

1. Dolbeare & Cummings, *American Political Thought*
2. Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*
3. Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Democracy on Trial*
4. Richard Rorty, *Achieving Our Country*

(other readings will be required and made available on course blackboard)

Requirements and basis of grading:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Group Presentation	10%
Individual Essay after group presentation (8-10pgs)	20%
2 other critical summaries/analyses (4-5 pgs. ea)	20% or 1 critical book review (8-10p)
Final exam**	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Final exam will be online – see course blackboard & April 14 class for instructions

ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING DEADLINES BUT THEY WILL NOT BE GRADED – ONLY HARD COPIES SUBMITTED BY YOU WILL BE GRADED AND CREDITED TO YOUR FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE

Note: More details about each assignment will be given in class and posted on blackboard

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF LECTURES & READINGS

Feb.29: **Introductory**

Mar.3, 5: **American Liberalism & American Exceptionalism**
Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* – Intro., Parts 1-4 (i.e. Chs.1-7)
Blackboard folder – everyone read at least 2 articles

Mar.7, 10, 12: **The Progressive Era**

Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* – Part 5 (i.e. Chs.8-9)
Buenker, “What Was Progressivism?” – article on blackboard
Dawley, “Introduction” to *Changing the World* – article on blackboard
“Beard Debate” – article on blackboard
“Beard Conclusions” – article on blackboard
(APT)Goldman, “Anarchism: What it Really Stands For”
(APT)Goldman, “The Tragedy of Woman’s Emancipation”
(APT)Debs, “Revolutionary Unionism”
(APT)Croly, “The Promise of American Life”
(APT)Wilson, “The Meaning of Democracy”
(APT)Dewey, “The Public and its Problems”
Blackboard folder for group presentation – everyone read at least 2 articles

Mar.14: Film in class –

Mar.17, 19, 21: **New Deal: A Departure?**

Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* – Part 6 (Ch.10 only)
Stebenne, “New Deal Liberalism” – article on blackboard
(APT)Roosevelt, “Commonwealth Address,” “Campaign Address,” “Bill of Rights”
(APT)American Political Thought to mid-Twentieth Century
Blackboard folder for group presentation – everyone read at least 2 articles

(First written summary/analysis should be done on one of the above readings in the blackboard folders other than the folder for your group presentation; DUE MAR.31 Noon)

(Second written summary/analysis should be done on of the readings below in the blackboard folders other than the folder for your group presentation; DUE APR.14 Noon)

Mar.24, 26, 28: **Pluralism & the End of Liberalism?**

Lowi, “Interest Group Liberalism” – article on blackboard
(APT)Post WW2 Liberal Dominance
(APT)Kennedy, “Inaugural Speech”
(APT)King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
(APT)Friedan, “Our Revolution is Unique”
Elshtain, *Democracy on Trial*
Blackboard folder for group presentation – everyone read at least 2 articles

****DUE MAR.31 NOON: First summary/analyses or Book Review**

Mar.31, Apr.2-4: **Conservatism & Neo-Conservatism**

Huntington, "Conservatism as an Ideology" – article on blackboard
Kazin, "The Rise of the New Right" – article on blackboard
"What is Neo-conservatism?" –
(APT)Origins of the New Right
(APT)Reagan, "First Inaugural," "State of the Union"
(APT)Buchanan, "The Great Betrayal"
Strauss, "What is Political Philosophy?" – article on blackboard
Blackboard folder for group presentation – everyone read at least 2 articles

Apr.7, 9, 11: **Neo-Liberalism**

(APT)Sources and Components of the New Left
(APT)Lasch, "Culture of Narcissism," "Women and Common Life"
(APT)Loury, "Achieving the Dream"
(APT)Catholic Bishops, "Economic Justice"
(APT)Clinton, "Second Inaugural"
Rorty, *Achieving Our Country*
Blackboard folder for group presentation – everyone read at least 2 articles

Apr.14: **Conclusions**

Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* – Part 6 (Ch.11 only)
Blackboard folder – everyone read
(APT)Bush Admin., "National Security Strategy"

Final Exam instructions

****DUE APRIL 14 NOON: Individual Essays from Group Presentations,
Second summary/analyses or Book Review**

FINAL EXAM Due: APRIL 23 NOON

PLEASE NOTE:

Preventing Sexual Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the University but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You may contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.