

**GVPT 449C: Seminar in Political Philosophy
American Political Thought After the Civil War
1865-1912**

**Department of Government and Politics
University of Maryland
Winter Term, 2009
M-Th: 7:00pm- 9:15pm Tydings 1111**

Instructors:

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Office Hours by Appointment

With the conclusion of the American Civil War, the Union passed the greatest test of whether a nation dedicated to the principles of liberty and equality could long endure. New challenges, however, would quickly replace the old ones, and as the United States emerged from the War and looked toward the coming century, a host of new problems would continue to test the nation as it was so conceived. The aftermath of the war, Reconstruction, Industrialization, and increased citizenship and democratization would all tax this nation as it struggled trying to find a way to flourish. In this seminar we will study the thought that helped guide this nation, on the heels of a rebirth and re-founding, struggling to find its place in a brave new, increasingly modern and novel era, a world that surely would have mystified its Founding Fathers. Interestingly, amongst the greatest writings of American political thought from this time are not the works of political philosophers detached from the political world. Rather, they are the works of men and women of all colors who were immersed in the struggle, both of body and of mind, for freedom and equality. We will turn, therefore, to the speeches and writings of men and women who sought actively to influence politics from within and without. We will strive, above all, to understand the moral and political principles guiding the thought of these men and women. This is important – especially for Americans – to try to understand this volatile yet formative period in the history of the United States; and with this purpose in mind, we plunge into American political thought after the Civil War.

I. Textbooks:

A. Required Texts

1. Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams: A Centennial Version*. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, VA: 2008. ISBN: 0934909938
2. Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward: 2000-1887* Oxford University Press, New York: 2007. ISBN 0192806291

3. W.E.B. Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folk*. W.W. Norton and Co., New York: 1999. ISBN: 0393973938
4. Mark Twain, *The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Short Works*. Prometheus Books, Amherst, NY: 2002. ISBN: 1573929999

B. Recommended Texts

1. Kenneth M. Dolbeare, and Michael S. Cummings. *American Political Thought*, 5th Edition. CQ Press, Washington, D.C.:2004. ISBN: 1568029139
2. Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*. Trans. Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop. University of Chicago Press, Chicago: 2002. ISBN 0-226-80532-8
3. James Young. *Reconsidering American Liberalism: The Troubled Odyssey Of The Liberal Idea*. Westview Press, New York: 1996. ISBN: 0813306485

II. Course Requirements:

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| 1. Participation | 20% |
| 2. Presentation | 40% |
| 3. Final Exam | 40% |

III. Miscellanea:

1. Academic Dishonesty: All work must be done in strictest accordance with the letter and spirit of the honor code of the University of Maryland. *All violations will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible.* If you have any doubts or questions whatsoever as to what constitutes a violation, feel free to speak to either of us ahead of time.
2. Students with documented disabilities should see the instructors immediately. Their needs will be accommodated provided the instructors are sufficiently notified.
3. The UMD policy of respecting the religious observances of students or their participation in university activities will be followed. Again, you must inform the instructors ahead of time.

IV. Schedule of Readings:

End of a Founding: The Rebirth of the United States

- Jan. 5** “Declaration of Independence” (4 July, 1776)
 Abraham Lincoln, “Second Inaugural Address” (1865)
 Karl Marx, “Address of the International Working Men’s Association to Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America” (1865)
 Charles Francis Adams, “Ambassador Adams Replies” (1865)
 The Civil War Constitutional Amendments:
 The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments (1865-1870)
 Frederick Douglass, “Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln” (1876)

Postwar America: The Gilded Age and Its Critics

- Jan. 6** Mark Twain, “The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg” (1900)
- Jan. 7** Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*; Chs. 1-4, 10 (1907/1918)
- Jan. 8** Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* Chs. 22, 25, 33-35 (1907/1918)
- Jan. 12** Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward: 2000-1877* (1888)
- Jan. 13** William Graham Sumner, “The Forgotten Man,” “The Concentration of Wealth: Its Economic Justification,” “The Absurd Effort to Make the World Over,” “The Case of the Forgotten Man Farther Considered” (Essays written principally in the 1880s)

We, the Other People

- Jan. 14** *Farmers and Agrarians*
The Ocala Demands (December 1890)
The Populist Party Platform (4 July 1892)
I’ll Take My Stand: Edited work published in 1930.
“Introduction” and “Reconstructed but Unregenerate”
- Jan. 15** *Workers and Anarchists*
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (1848)
The Workingmen’s Party of Illinois, “Declaration of Independence” (4 July 1876)
Richard T. Ely, “A Declaration by the Representatives of the Wage-Workers of the United States of America in Congress Assembled” (4 July, 1886)
W.A. Corey, “The Working Class Declaration of Independence” (4 July 1902)
Eugene V. Debs, “Revolutionary Unionism” (1905)
Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For” (1907)
- Jan. 19** **No Class, MLK Holiday**
- Jan. 20** *Blacks in Reconstructed America*
W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (The Forethought, Chs. I-VI, VIII, X, XIII-XIV, and The Afterthought) (1903)
Special Class Discussion:
Reflections on Barack Obama’s Inaugural Address

Jan. 21*Women's Rights*

Excerpts from *The Revolution* (1869)

Statement of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1869)

Debates at Meetings of the Equal Rights Association (1869)

Susan B. Anthony, "Statement at the Close of Her Trial" (1873) and

"Petition to Congress for Remission of Her Fine" (1874)

The National Woman Suffrage Association, "Declaration of Rights for Women" (4 July 1876)

Emma Goldman, "The Tragedy of Woman's Emancipation" (1910)

Helen Keller, "To an English Woman-Suffragist," (1911); "New Vision for the Blind," (1913); and "Why Men Need Woman Suffrage" (1915)

Progress, Imperialism, and the Coming of the Twentieth Century**Jan. 22**

Frederick W. Taylor, "The Nature of Scientific Management" (1912)

Theodore Roosevelt, "The Leader and the Cause" (1912)

The Progressive Party Platform (1912)

Woodrow Wilson, "The Meaning of Democracy" (1912)

Recommended Readings:

Theodore Roosevelt, "The Strenuous Life" (1899)

Frederick W. Taylor, "Shop Management" (1903)

Herbert Croly, "The Promise of American Life" (1909)

In-Class Final Exam