

POLSC 204.64
Spring 2007
Sections 001 & 002: M/Th 9:45-11:00 AM
HW 1731
Email: wadler@gc.cuny.edu

Prof. William D. Adler
Office: 1742 HW
Hours: Monday 11am-12pm
and by appointment
<http://adlers.home.att.net/william/>

Conservative Political Thought in America

This course will explore the distinctive nature of conservative political thought in American history. We will trace the lineages of varying strands of conservatism, including social conservatism, neo-conservatism, and libertarianism, back to their historical roots. In the process we will attempt to explain how conservatism has evolved over time and how it became a governing philosophy. Besides completing the assigned readings, students will be required to present on one of the authors we discuss, and write a research paper.

Required Texts

There is one required book, plus a course pack. They are both available at Shakespeare bookstore. The texts are:

- Friedrich A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994 [1944]), ISBN 0-226-32061-8.

Course Pack for POLSC 204.64: Conservative Political Thought in America, produced by Campus Course Paks (www.ccpaks.com).

Course Requirements

- 1) Complete all readings on schedule. If you miss a class, email me for the next reading assignment, as the schedule may change.
- 2) Attend on time and actively participate in class discussions. Those who arrive more than 3 minutes late, or who leave in the middle of class, will be marked absent. Each student is allowed only **two** unexcused absences. Your participation grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter for each unexcused absence over two.

As this is a seminar, participation from all students is **crucial** and will be expected on a regular basis. If you attend regularly and do not participate at all, the best participation grade you can receive is a C+. Occasional participation will garner a B-, more frequent participation a B, etc. An A indicates regular and informed participation that helps to advance the discussion.

- 3) Read *The New York Times* (or another major newspaper) on a regular basis. Current events will frequently come up during class as examples of the principles we discuss. This will enable everyone to connect what can be vague ideas with real-world events. The *Times* is available for

free online (www.nytimes.com) or you can pick up a copy outside of the Political Science department office on the 17th floor of Hunter West.

4) I reserve the right to occasionally conduct quizzes in short answer format. This will not be necessary if I am satisfied that everyone is completing the assigned reading and participating in discussions.

5) Take the final exam. This will likely be a take-home final due on the scheduled date for our final exam.

6) Present on one of the authors we are discussing. Each section will begin with a 10-15 minute introduction on the author we are considering. I will often lead the discussion, but every student is required to make this presentation once. You must summarize the main points from the selected readings for that author and provide the class the context within which we will discuss those ideas. You will be graded on organization of the material, thoroughness, and the ability to clearly convey ideas to informed listeners.

7) Write a research paper. (You may wish to write your paper on the author whose work you present to the class.) This will be done in 4 stages:

1. Topic proposal. This should be 1-2 pages. Briefly describe your area of interest, and state your research question. Due no later than **Thursday, February 15th**. The grade for this assignment is Approve/Disapprove. If I do not approve your proposal, you must rewrite and resubmit it.

2. Annotated bibliography. This should be 1-2 pages. List no fewer than 4 separate sources that you will use for your research, not including Internet sources or readings from the syllabus. Describe their relevance to your research. Due no later than **Monday, March 12th**.

3. First draft. This must be at least 6 pages. Cite all sources appropriately and include a bibliography. Due no later than **Thursday, April 12th**.

4. Final draft. This must be 8-12 pages. Make all appropriate corrections to the first draft. Due no later than **Thursday, May 17th**.

All assignments must be stapled, typed in a 12 point font, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and have page numbers. Papers not meeting these criteria will be penalized. Late papers will be penalized by one-third of a letter for **each day** they are late. Though you must also give me a hard copy, you must submit papers to www.turnitin.com:

class ID - 1768965
password - hayek

Grading

Work conducted towards the end of the semester will be more heavily weighted in my mind when dispensing final grades; in other words, *improvement counts*.

Attendance/Participation/Quizzes: 25%

Annotated Bibliography: 5%

First Draft: 15%

Final Draft: 20%

Class Presentation: 15%

Final Exam: 20%

Incompletes will only be given for valid, documented emergencies. As well, please note that Hunter College rules specify that credit/no credit grading may only be used if a student has completed all the work assigned for the course.

Any student found plagiarizing work will receive a grade of **zero** for that assignment, and will be reported for potential disciplinary proceedings.

Schedule of Classes and Exams

January 29th: Introduction

February 1st and 5th: Federalists and Anti-Federalists

Federalist #1, 10, 15, 23, 39, 51 [course pack #1]

Brutus I, V, and Federal Farmer III [course pack #2]

February 12th and 19th: No classes

February 8th, 15th and 21st (Monday schedule): Adams, Hamilton, and Jefferson

John Adams, "Thoughts on Government," "A Defense of the Constitutions of the United States," and "Correspondence with Abigail Adams" [course pack #3]

John Adams, "On Natural Aristocracy" [course pack #4]

Alexander Hamilton, "Report on Credit," "Opinion on the Constitutionality of the Bank," and "Report on Manufactures" [course pack #5]

Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence," "Notes on Virginia," "The Kentucky Resolutions," and "Letter to Major John Cartwright" [course pack #6]

February 22nd: John C. Calhoun

John C. Calhoun, “Disquisition on Government” [course pack #7]

John C. Calhoun, “Speech on the Veto Power” [course pack #8]

February 26th and March 1st: George Fitzhugh and Abraham Lincoln

George Fitzhugh, “Cannibals All!” [course pack #9]

Abraham Lincoln, “Address to the Young Men’s Lyceum,” “Address at Cooper Institute,” “First Inaugural Address,” “Gettysburg Address,” “Letter to Albert Hodges,” and “Second Inaugural Address” [course pack #10]

March 5th and 8th: William Graham Sumner, Andrew Carnegie, and Booker T. Washington

William Graham Sumner, “What Social Classes Owe to Each Other,” and “The Conquest of the United States by Spain” [course pack #11]

Andrew Carnegie, “Wealth” [course pack #12]

Booker T. Washington, “The Awakening of the Negro” [course pack #13]

March 12th and 15th: Southern Agrarians

Excerpts from Twelve Southerners, *I’ll Take My Stand: The South and the Agrarian Tradition* [course pack #14]

March 19th and 22nd: Herbert Hoover and the Old Right

Excerpts from Herbert Hoover, *The Challenge to Liberty* [course pack #15]

Justin Raimondo, “John T. Flynn: Exemplar of the Old Right” [course pack #16]

March 26th, 29th, and April 12th: Hayek and the Road to Serfdom

Friedrich A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (entire)

Monday April 2nd – Tuesday April 10th: Spring Break

April 16th and 19th: Post-War Conservatism

George H. Nash, “The Revolt Against the Masses” [course pack #17]

Russell Kirk, “The Idea of Conservatism,” and “The Promise of Conservatism” [course pack #18]

April 22nd and 26th: National Review and Fusionism

William F. Buckley, Jr., “Standing Athwart History, Yelling Stop” [course pack #19]

Excerpts from Frank S. Meyer, *In Defense of Freedom: A Conservative Credo* [course pack #20]

April 30th and May 3rd: Libertarians and the New Right

Excerpts from Barry Goldwater, *The Conscience of a Conservative* [course pack #21]

Excerpts from Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* [course pack #22]

May 7th and 10th: The Neo-Conservatives

Irving Kristol, “The Neoconservative Persuasion” [course pack #23]

Irving Kristol, “Capitalism, Socialism, and Nihilism” [course pack #24]

Irving Kristol, “Pornography, Obscenity, and the Case for Censorship” [course pack #25]

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, “Defining Deviancy Down” [course pack #26]

Excerpts from Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind* [course pack #27]

May 14th: George W. Bush

George W. Bush, “Address to a Joint Session of Congress, September 20, 2001,” and “Second Inaugural Address” [course pack #28]

George W. Bush, “The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, September 2002” [course pack #29]

May 17th: The Paleo-Conservative Revolt

Patrick J. Buchanan, “Whose War?” [course pack #30]

C. Bradley Thompson, “The Decline and Fall of American Conservatism” [course pack #31]