

PSCI 4396
Liberalism, Republicanism and Freedom
Fall, 2008

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Office hours: Th, 9-11:00 am and by appt.

GOVT 4396: American Founding Thought: Liberalism, Republicanism, and Freedom

This course will explore a lost or neglected ideal of freedom and self-government. With the rise and influence of movements such as Marxism, socialism, fascism and globalization, the American polity's understanding of freedom and representative government have undergone a significant transformation—so much so that some commentators believe the American people are no longer truly free. It is argued that due to lost understanding, most Americans are ignorant of their liberal and republican heritage, and as a result, American citizens have unknowingly abandoned authentic democratic practice and politics. To comprehend this change, we will examine three texts fundamental to influencing the American idea of liberty (Algernon Sidney's *Discourses Concerning Government*, John Locke's 2nd *Treatise* and John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon's *Cato's Letters*); and we will do so with a view to the possibility and/or desirability of recovering vanished ideals.

Required texts:

Thomas Gordon and John Trenchard; Ronald Hamowy, ed. *Cato's Letters (volumes 1 & 2)*. Liberty Fund.
Volume 1 ISBN:0-86597-131-5
Volume 2 ISBN:0-86597-133-1

John Locke; Paul Sigmund ed. *The Selected Writings of John Locke*. Norton Critical Editions
ISBN 0-393-96451-5

Algernon Sidney; Thomas Wes, ed. *Discourses Concerning Government*. Liberty Fund
ISBN 0-86597-142-0

Requirements, grading and participation:

There will be three exams and a quiz/participation grade for this course. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Three exams	30% each
Quiz/participation	10%
Total	100%

Attendance, etc.

Attendance is expected and required. Should you miss an exam due to an absence or **tardy**, a grade of "F" will be assigned and will stand; the only exception will be for a previously approved *excused* absence. When challenging a grade, it is the responsibility of the student to produce the requisite materials. 10% of your final grade will be determined by attendance and quiz performance. Failure of four quizzes will result in the loss of 5% of your participation grade; failure of six quizzes will result in the loss of your full participation grade. There will be a course grade reduction of 5% for every two additional quiz failures. Should you miss a quiz due to an absence or **tardy**, a grade of "F" will be assigned and will stand. There are **no** make-up quizzes or exams. Final grades are determined at the instructor's discretion. Attendance is expected and required. The exams will consist almost equally of lecture and reading material. Cell phones, pagers, palm pilots and any other electronic device that rings, beeps, clicks, whirrs, etc.; turn them off.—should a student need to be reminded more than once, it is possible that he or she could lose 10% of the final grade or suffer removal from class.

Class rules and grades:

1. In order for you to receive an excused absence, you ***must*** notify me ***prior*** to class; or you ***must*** have a documented medical emergency; otherwise, all absences and each tardy will be considered unexcused.
2. All grades are final (unless there is a mistake when determining a grade—this does happen).
The time to be concerned with a grade is during the semester, not after. When challenging a grade, it is the responsibility of the student to produce the requisite materials. There is no extra credit given in this class.
3. **NO LAPTOP COMPUTERS MAY BE USED IN THIS CLASS.**

University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:

It is the policy of the University of Texas at Dallas that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Violations will result in immediate disciplinary action to the fullest extent of the policy. See the University catalog for a detailed explanation.

Reading and exam schedule:

Aug 25—course introduction
Aug 27—*Discourses*: Editor's Foreword; Bk I, sections, 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11
Sept 1—LABOR DAY, no class
Sept 3—*Discourses*, Bk I, sec. 17, 18, 20; Bk II, sec. 1, 6, pp 113-115, 10, 11
Sept 8—*Discourses*, Bk II, sec. 12-22
Sept 10—*Discourses*, Bk II, pp 217-229; sec. 26, 28, 30, 31
Sept 15—*Discourses*, Bk II, sec. 25, 26, 28, 30, 31
Sept 17—*Discourses*, Bk III, sec 6, 9, 11, 12, 13
Sept 22—*Discourses*, Bk III, sec. 14, 16, 19, 21, 23
Sept 24—*Discourses*, Bk III, sec. 26, 27, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37
Sept 29—*Discourses*, Bk III, sec. 39-43
Oct 1—*Discourses*, Bk, III, sec. 44-46; exam #1 review
Oct 6—***exam #1***
Oct 8—*Selected Writings of John Locke*: Editor's Introduction, pp xi-xiv; 2nd *Treatise*: chs I-IV
Oct 13—2nd *Treatise*, chs V-VII
Oct 15—2nd *Treatise*, chs VIII-XII
Oct 20—2nd *Treatise*, chs XIII-XVII
Oct 22—2nd *Treatise*, chs XVIII & XIX
Oct 27—lecture, exam #2 review
Oct 29—***exam #2***
Nov 3—*Cato's Letters*: Editor's Introduction; Dedication, letters #'s 11, 13, 15, 16
Nov 5—*Cato's Letters*, #'s 17, 18, 19, 23
Nov 10—*Cato's Letters* #'s 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33
Nov 12—*Cato's Letters* #'s 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43
Nov 17—*Cato's Letters* #'s 44-49, 51
Nov 19—*Cato's Letters* #'s 59-63, 67, 68
Nov 24—*Cato's Letters* #'s 69-76, 84
Nov 26—reading day
Nov 28—THANKSGIVING, no class
Dec 1—*Cato's Letters* #'s 89, 96, 100, 101, 103-105
Dec 3—*Cato's Letters* #'s 108-112, 115-117
Dec 8—*Cato's Letters* #'s 66, 123, 124, 131, 137; exam #3 review

2:00p.m. Monday, December 15—exam #3!