

American Political Thought 46.307.201

Instructor: Susan E. Gallagher Susan_Gallagher@uml.edu
Course Page: <http://faculty.uml.edu/sgallagher> (Click on American Political Thought)
Time: Tuesday, Thursday, 5:00 - 6:15 **Room:** Dugan 207
Office: Coburn 400
Office Hours: On campus: Thurs, 4:00–5:00 (or by appointment)
Online: Friday, 7:00-10:00pm

Note: The assignment schedule and other details are included on the course web page.

This course utilizes documentary resources to survey major milestones in American political thought from the Founding Era to the present. During the first half of the term, we will study selections from leading contributors to social, economic, and political discourse over the past two centuries. During the second half, students will use what they have learned to explore how eighteenth and nineteenth-century approaches to politics and government have influenced social and political developments in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Topics covered in the readings during the first half of the semester include the crafting of the U.S. Constitution, the rise of abolitionism, the struggle for woman suffrage, the response to industrialization, and the political and legal consequences of the spread of mass communications. Drawing from these materials, students will make presentations on the ways in which earlier conceptions of democracy, equality, freedom, justice, and the rule of law fueled more recent debates about civil rights, gender equality, free speech, environmental problems, the scope of government, and other political issues.

All required readings and supporting materials will be drawn from public domain collections that are freely available on the Internet. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to conduct research for papers and presentations by locating relevant images, texts, and other documents on trustworthy sites such as [Digital Commonwealth](#), the [Library of Congress](#), and [Google Books](#).

Requirements

You must have regular access to the Internet in order to take this course. You are not required to purchase any books. All course materials, including required readings and assignments, are available at <http://faculty.uml.edu/sgallagher>. Click on [American Political Thought](#) in order to access the course page.

When you contact me via e-mail, you must include the initials APT in the subject heading of your message. If you do not include “APT,” your e-mail could be misdirected or rejected as spam.

If you need to miss a session, please e-mail a valid excuse beforehand if you can or as soon as possible after that session. If you miss more than three sessions without providing a valid excuse, you will receive an “F” for the course.

You must not plagiarize. If you copy from any outside source without providing proper attribution in any of your assignments, you will receive an “F” for that assignment. If you copy

