pot3204 - American Political Thought

Dwight Kiel

Syllabus

This course explores Amercian Political Thought from colonial times to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on the Founding and on voices of dissent.

Required Texts:

Dolbeare and Cummings, American Political Thought (6th ed), CQ Press

Henry Adams, Democracy: An American Novel, Plume Press

Hamilton, Madison and Jay, The Federalist Papers, Signet Press

Zora Neal Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Perennial Press

Requirements:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes	10%
Participation	20%
Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

All quizzes and tests are open book.

I will use the +/- grading system (e.g., 80-82=B- and 87-89=B+).

Expectations For The Requirements

Quizzes: Quizzes will be five question multiple choice quizzes. They will be drawn from the assigned readings. Quizzes will become available on Thursday and Friday. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Participation: Participation will be graded by your response(s) to the Participation Questions. Each student is expected to post answers to the Participation Questions to their Participation Group. I expect your first post to be a substantive and thoughtful answer to the question posed. I expect your first post to be at least 50 words long or longer. I encourage more postings so that these become discussion sections as if we were in a seminar. These questions will help you prepare for the Essay Exams. As long as you make a substantive post for each Participation Question you will receive a grade of "A" for that posting. You must post for all seven Participation Questions.

Assignments: Assignments are very short projects. The Assignments will require a posting of 150-300 words to my Course Mail. As long as you answer all the parts of the Assignment and make thoughtful comments you will receive a grade of "A" for that posting. You must post for all four Assignments. I encourage discussion following your original posting.

Essay Exams: Essay Exams will be responses to one of two or three questions I ask. The Essay should be between 1200-2000 words (about 5-8 pages) and should be posted to Course Mail. Essays exceeding 2000 words will be assessed a one grade penalty. You will be able to answer the Essay question with just the material covered in this course, but you may use other material. If you do use other material cite clearly. Plagiarism will result in an F grade for the course.