Syllabus for American Political Thought

Richard M. Skinner, Rollins College

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Draft Syllabus for American Political Thought

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Books

Merrill Peterson, *The Portable Jefferson*

*The Federalist Papers*

Other readings will be on electronic reserve or in a course packet.

I. Colonial Political Thought

John Winthrop, "A Modell of Christian Charity" and "Winthrop's Speech to the General Court, July 3, 1645."
“The Mayflower Compact.”
Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (selections)

II. Revolutionary Political Thought

Jefferson, letters to James Madison, October 28, 1785 and January 30, 1787, in Peterson.
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (selections)

III. The Battle Over the Constitution

Herbert J. Storing, "The Small Republic."

IV. Building a National Government

Jefferson, "First Inaugural Addresses," in Peterson.
Jefferson, letters to John Adams, October 28, 1813 and to Samuel Kercheval, July 12, 1816, in Peterson.

V. **Jacksonian Democracy**  
Andrew Jackson, “Maysville Road Veto Message” and “Bank Veto Message”  
Henry Clay, “Speech on Maysville Road Veto”  
Daniel Webster, “Speech on Jackson’s Bank Veto”  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance”  
“The Seneca Falls Declaration and Resolutions.”  
Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience.”

VI. **Slavery and the Civil War**  
Frederick Douglass, “Fourth of July Oration.”  
Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (selections)  
John C. Calhoun, *Disquisition on Government* (selections)  
Alexander Stephens, “Selections From The Cornerstone Speech”

VII. **The Industrial Revolution and the Progressive Era**  
William Graham Sumner, *What Social Classes Owe to Each Other* (selections)  
Josiah Strong, “Our Country”  
Andrew Carnegie, “The Gospel of Wealth”  
William Jennings Bryan, “Cross of Gold Speech.”  
Woodrow Wilson, “The Meaning of Democracy.”  
Jane Addams, “The Larger Aspects of the Women's Movement.”  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “His Religion and Hers.”

VIII. **Foundations of the Welfare State**  
Franklin D. Roosevelt, “The Commonwealth Club Address,” “First Inaugural Address”  
Rexford Tugwell, “Planning Must Replace Laissez-Faire”  
Walter Lippmann, “Planning Will Lead to Oligarchy”

IX. **Critiques From The Left**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter From Birmingham Jail”  
Students for a Democratic Society, “Port Huron Statement”
Malcolm X, “The Ballot Or The Bullet”
Bayard Rustin, “The Meaning of the March on Washington”
Michael J. Sandel, “In Search of a Public Philosophy.”

X. Critiques From The Right

Whittaker Chambers, Witness (selections)
Barry Goldwater, The Conscience of a Conservative (selections)
Milton Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom (selections)
Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address
William A. Schambra, “The Progressive Assault on Civic Community.”