Overview: This course explores the elements of American thought that have shaped our national political culture. It is the thesis of this course that ideas matter; i.e., what men and women think about the nature, organization, and operation of politics and government has important and enduring consequences in the life of a nation. We test this thesis by studying the values, beliefs, and arguments that define the American experience and produce its unique political culture. Special emphasis is placed on the roots of the American political order and the political thought that cultivates the habits, morals, and civic virtues essential for stable republican self-government. This course carries a heavy reading load and is an Arts and Sciences writing emphasis course, students are advised to take this into account when enrolling and planning their semester workload. Students must check the course webpage between class sessions for announcements, new material, and on-line quizzes.

Policy: Attendance is required and will be taken. It is expected that students will attend class every day, prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. Excessive absences inevitably will affect your grade. Final grades are based on student performance on a midterm examination (100-points), a final examination (150-points), quizzes, and extra credit exercises (40-points). Quizzes are unannounced and designed to reward students for close attention to lectures and reading assignments. No makeup quizzes are given. At the close of the term the total points for all students are summed and letter grades are assigned based on a class curve. To obtain extra credit students must complete take-home exercises based on additional reading in the recommended books. Makeup examinations may be arranged, but only when the instructor has extended permission before the scheduled test date. Except in extraordinary situations, make-up final examinations are scheduled for Thursday, December 12 at 5:00 - 7:00 pm. All university rules regarding academic honesty are enforced.

Required Books:

Bellah, *The Broken Covenant* (Chicago, 1992)

Recommended Books:

Hunt, *The Essential Lincoln* (Gramercy, 1993)
Hunt, *The Essential Franklin Delano Roosevelt* (Gramercy, 1995)
Ceaser, *Reconstructing America* (Yale, 1997)

Important Dates (subject to change with notice):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 22</td>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 10</td>
<td>Final Examination @ 7:15 to 9:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 12</td>
<td>Make-up Final Examination @ 5 – 7 pm</td>
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