

THE POLITICAL THOUGHT AND STATESMANSHIP OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

POSC 53001-04

PROF. M ZUCKERT

FALL 2015

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

THE USUAL STUFF:

HONOR CODE: HONOR IT

COURSE GOALS: TO UNDERSTAND THE TOPICS ANNOUNCED IN THE COURSE TITLE. TO LEARN TO WRITE BETTER AND THINK BETTER. TO BECOME A BETTER PERSON. TO APPRECIATE THE DILEMMAS OF POLITICAL ACTION. TO INVESTIGATE THE RELATION BETWEEN MORAL PRINCIPLE AND POLITICAL ACTION.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

The course requirements will consist of two short papers (about 5-6 pages each) due during the semester and one long paper (about 15 pages) due at the end of the semester on the day of the scheduled final exam for this course. (There will not be a final exam). One of the short papers is to be a reflection on one of the movies we will watch about Lincoln and the other will be on one of Lincoln's important speeches. Here is a list of the speeches eligible for this assignment.

Perpetuation address

Sub-Treasury Address

Temperance address

Speech on the Mexican War

Eulogy on Henry Clay

Speech on Kansas-Nebraska Act

Speech on Dred Scott decision

House Divided Speech

Lincoln- Douglas Debate: Douglas

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Lincoln

Wisconsin State Agricultural Society Speech/Speech on Inventions and Discoveries

Cooper Union speech

First Inaugural address

Message to congress July 4, 1861

Annual Message to Congress (1862)

Gettysburg Address

Second Inaugural Address

Part of this assignment involves being prepared to report to the class and lead a discussion on your speech.

The final paper will be on a topic of your choice, selected in consultation with the instructor.

The various assignments will count toward your final grade as follows:

1. Class Participation—20%: coming to class prepared and participating in discussion. This includes preparing to talk about your classmates' papers on the speeches and movies. This is a discussion class and you and I will both get much more out of it if you come prepared to talk—to share your thoughts and to learn from your classmates. I am serious about this part of the grade and will send you periodic reports of my assessment of your class participation. I am interested in thoughtful participation and not in “right answers.”
2. Movie paper: 15%
3. Speech paper; 25%
4. Final paper: 40%

PT. I INTRODUCTORY

- 1) (Aug. 26) : **Statesmanship, Political thought, and Political Science**
CSPAN survey on great Presidents (<http://legacy.c-span.org/PresidentialSurvey/presidential-leadership-survey.aspx>)- be

sure to look at the different leadership characteristics and the changes from 2000 to 2009.

(Aug. 30: movie night: Americans View Lincoln (2012)—How do people view Lincoln today?—Spielberg’s “Lincoln” at my house, complete with popcorn) (Details to be worked out in class)(What do we learn about Lincoln’s statesmanship, if anything, from this movie? How does Spielberg focus his film? Why?)

PT. II BEGINNING A POLITICAL CAREER: LINCOLN AS ILLINOIS POLITICIAN

2) (Aug. 31): Becoming Lincoln

Richard Brookhiser, **Founders’ Son** (RB), Intro., chs. 1-3 (pp. 1-50)

Lincoln, Protest in Illinois Legislature on Slavery (Sakai resources)

Basler ed., **Speeches and Writings**, (B) 53-60, 63-72.

3-4)(Sept. 2, 7) On the Future of American Republicanism

RB,, ch. 4 (pp. 51-66)

B, 76-85

5-6) (Sept. 9, 14) Whig Politics and the Problem of Reform

RB, ch. 5 (pp.67-81 only)

B, 90- 113, 121-123, 131-141, 169-171, 186-189.

7) (Sept. 16) Lincoln in Congress—Whig Politics --the Mexican War and Internal Improvements

RB, ch. 5 (pp. 81-87)

B, 199-221

Speech on Internal Improvements (Sakai resources)

Recommended (Sept. 17—Holy Cross Constitution Day Lecture) Prof. Munoz—details TBA

8) (Sept.22): Lincoln’s (sort of) retirement from Politics—and Henry Clay

RB, ch. 6 (pp. 89-101)

B. 264-278

Commager, **Documents in American History**, (C), 319-325

(<http://quod.lib.umich.edu.proxy.library.nd.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=acls;cc=acls;rgn=full%20text;idno=heb07824.0001.001;didno=heb07824.0001.001;view=image;seq=00000211;node=heb07824.0001.001%3A3.4>) available in Library, e-books, ACLS humanities e-book, Commager Documents in American History 1958.

9) (Sept. 23) Americans View Lincoln (1936)

“Young Mr. Lincoln” (Sakai)

Recommended: (Sept. 24: Notre Dame Constitution Day Lecture) Prof. Leslie Goldstein, University of Delaware—Details TBA

PT.III BECOMING A REPUBLICAN, BECOMING PRESIDENT (1854-1860)

10-11) (Sept. 28, 30) Onto the Stage of History--1854

RB, ch. 7 (pp. 105-118)

B 278-325

John C. Calhoun, Speech on the Oregon Bill

(http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=683&chapter=107129&layout=html&Itemid=27)

12) (Oct.5): A House Dividing—1855-1857

RB, ch.8 (pp.119-128 only)

B, 328-336, 339-345, 347-366

C, 339-345

13 (Oct. 7): The House Divided and the Debates—1858: Douglas

RB, ch. 8 (pp.128-138)

B. 372-381, 428-440,461-468

C. 351-354, 356-358

14 (Oct. 9): The Debates: Lincoln

B. 385-424, 427, 441-461,469-474, 477-478

C. 348-351, 354-356

15-16) (Oct. 14, 26): The Presidential Nomination and the Election of 1860

RB, chs. 9, 11 (pp.139-150, 171-198)

B, 486-505, 513, 517-536, 542-544, 547-555

Speech on Inventions and Discoveries (Sakai resources)

The Mudsill theory (Sakai resources)

C, 363-366.

PT. IV PRESIDENT LINCOLN 1861-1865

17) (Oct. 28): The Challenge of Secession

RB, ch. 11 (180-197)

B, 564-588, 590-591

C, 366-376, 392-393

Alexander Stephens, The Cornerstone Address, (Sakai resources)

18) (Nov. 2): The Response to Ft. Sumter

RB ch. 11 (pp. 197-198), Ch. 12 (pp. 201-219 only), ch. 13 (pp. 229-237 only)

B, 594-609, 613-615, 699-708

C, 397-401

19) (Nov. 4): The War and Problems with Generals (1861-1862)

David Donald, Lincoln and McClellan (Sakai resources)

B, 616-620, 624, 630-635, 644, 647-650, 657-659, 664-665, 638-642, 644

C, 413-415

20) (Nov. 9): War Aims: Union and/or Emancipation?

RB, 219-228

B, 613-615, 651-653, 655, 657-659, 679-691, 720-724

C, 395-396, 397-398, 402-405, 415-417, 418-420, 421-422, 427-428

21) (Nov. 11) Americans View the Civil War (1989)

“Glory” (streaming—reserve)

B, 694-695, 748-750

22) (Nov. 16) Gettysburg (1863)

RB, ch. 13 (pp.238-246); ch. 10 (152-170)

First two paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence

Michael Zuckert, “The Philosophy of the Declaration of Independence”
(Sakai resources)

B, 726-727, 734-737

23) (Nov. 18): The 1864 Election

RB, ch. 14(pp.247-265)

B, 753-758, 759-764, 766

C, 435-436, 436-440

24) (Nov. 23): NO CLASS

25) (Nov. 30): Terms of Peace and Reconstruction (1863-1865)

RB, ch. 16 (pp.285-291); Epilogue (pp. 297-301)

B, 738-741,744,745, 796-801,

C, 440-445

26) (Dec. 2) Lincoln's Greatest Speech?

RB, ch. 15 (pp. 267-284)

B, 783-789, 790-796

"Battle Hymn of the Republic" (Sakai Resources)

27) (Dec.7): Americans View Lincoln (1930)

RB, ch.16, (pp. 291-296)

DW Griffith, "Abraham Lincoln" (streaming—You tube version not the one on reserve)(they are different)

Wikipedia entry on Griffith

Walt Whitman, "O Captain, My Captain" (on-line)

28) (Dec. 9): Lincoln: Political thought and Statesmanship

"Lincoln"

