

The Politics of National Memory

Course Information

PSCI 4373

SPRING 2021

Tuesday 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Professor Contact Information

Professor Contact

Professor Joel L. Swerdlow, PhD
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Office Hours Any day (including weekends) by appointment.
Teams links will be used as Covid 19 restrictions require.

Lecturer Contacts

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Faculty will return your email or telephone call within 24 hours. If you do not hear back, please assume your message or email never arrived, and call or write again.

Course Modality and Expectations

<p>Instructional Mode</p>	<p>This class is classified as a blended (hybrid) course with a combination of online and face-to-face meetings. Students will be assigned to 16-person groups and will have the option to meet in-person at the Archer Center according to a posted schedule; the class will also be available online for students who do not participate in the in-person meeting. For more details about the instructional mode see: https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/fall-2020-registration-information/</p>
<p>Course Platform</p>	<p>The course will be delivered via Teams. Students registered for this course can access it using this link: https://teams.microsoft.com/team/19%3a0af616b2e821489fb359ebce6bb7cfd9%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=d94b4ceb-8c80-49d6-ae0d-4e140cf3859d&tenantId=8d281d1d-9c4d-4bf7-b16e-032d15de9f6c</p>
<p>Expectations</p>	<p>All classes are mandatory and will be delivered via Teams. Each week, a limited number of students will have the option to meet in person at the Archer Center, while the remainder of the class participates virtually. Classes will be recorded and available asynchronously.</p> <p>Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material. The model for this class is a graduate seminar. You are expected to participate in class with questions and ideas, and by engaging in debates and discussions.</p> <p>While we will not visit museums and other sites as a class, students are encouraged to visit on their own—particularly when working on their journal (see below). For this reason, you should be prepared with comfortable walking shoes and sunblock.</p>
<p>Asynchronous Learning Guidelines</p>	<p>Students who opt for asynchronous access in this course will need to meet the requirements and standards set forth by the instructor and their lecturer; and will need to follow along at the pace of the class even though the student is not meeting at the time of the class. Asynchronous access means flexibility is given to the student to complete the course at a distance (see https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/asynchronous-access-for-fall-2020/).</p>

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to COVID-19

UT Dallas requires that all students must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth in all university buildings and classrooms. To help protect the health and safety of students, instructors, and the University community, students who choose not to wear a face covering may not attend class in person but may attend a course remotely. Anyone attending class in person without a face covering will be asked to put one on or leave. Instructors may end the class if anyone present refuses to appropriately wear a face covering for the duration of class. Students should also be sure they are at least six feet away from their fellow students and faculty, and seated in a seat that is designated to ensure that distance. Students who either refuse to wear face coverings appropriately or to adhere to other social distancing protocols may face disciplinary action for [Student Code of Conduct](#) violations. Students who are unable to comply with the university policies including wearing a face covering should consult the [Comets United](#) webpage for further instructions.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or may have been exposed should not attend class in person and should instead follow required disclosure notifications as posted on the university's website (see "[What should I do if I become sick?](#)" webpage)

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes. These attendance requirements will not be used as part of grading (see Class Participation below for grading information).

In-person participation records may be used to assist the University or local public health authorities in performing COVID-19 occurrence monitoring. Please note – in-person attendance requires consistently adhering to University requirements, including wearing a face covering and other public safety requirements related to COVID-19, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Acceptance into the Archer Fellowship Program

Course Description

This course focuses on the politics of national memory by fostering an ongoing conversation about the meaning of the American Republic and the historical memory found in memorials, monuments, and museums in Washington, D.C.

The course will explore political and artistic controversies that have shaped the design and building of many memorials, monuments and museums that define the architectural landscape of the nation's capital.

Along with visiting many of these sites, the course will involve a critical discussion in the classroom of the memorials, monuments and museums in light of primary texts.

Students will engage in critical reflection about their personal experience of Washington, D.C., the National Mall, and many of the structures that do so much to define this city and national memory today.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Through readings, discussions and first-hand experiences students will learn to:

1. Use Washington DC to construct a working, practical definition of “democracy”; what makes American democracy unique; and how American democracy evolves in response to technological, demographic and other changes in society.
 2. Describe and explain the development of Washington, D.C., and the National Mall as places of historical memory—this includes understanding the political controversies that have shaped the building of major national memorials, monuments and museums in Washington, D.C.
 3. Understand through personal participation the process through which complex ideas, historic evidence and personal experience are woven together to formulate a useful and testable overall theory that stimulates discussion and invites improvements
 4. Appreciate, acquire, and utilize skills—primarily thinking in time; story literacy; and ability to listen—that are essential to active citizenship in a democracy—and to being an effective public policy-maker.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

The following books will be posted to the PSCI 4373 Teams channel and to the course page on e-Learning (except the Wehner book was mailed to you):

1865: Abraham Lincoln, *SOTU* [for Archer Plus]

1938: Thomas Mann, *The Coming Victory of Democracy*

1987: Ronald Reagan, Franklin D. Roosevelt, et. al., *An Economic Bill of Rights*

2006: FBI, *Prosecutive Report of Report Concerning Roy Bryant, et. al.*

2014: Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, *The Collapse of Western Civilization* (a novel)

2019: Jill Lapore, *This America*

2019: Peter Wehner, *The Death of Politics: How to Heal Our Frayed Republic After Trump* (A hard copy was mailed to you in December)

Also posted will be *The Politics of National Memory—A Searchable Database*. To-date, provides all U.S. Commission on Fine Arts discussions, documents and decisions related to U.S. war in Vietnam, 1977-the present.

Suggested Course Materials

Sunblock; comfortable walking shoes

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Role of Lecturers

Each Lecturer will be assigned to work with a group of 16 students. These Discussion Group assignments will be posted on Teams. The Lecturers will review and assess their students’ written assignments (see “Grading Policy” below). They are available for discussions and to answer questions and address concerns. Students who wish to meet with either of the lecturers should schedule a meeting during their office hours.

During each class session, the Lecturers will:

- conduct an hour-long discussion with their Group after each lecture; and,
- when the entire class reconvenes for the final thirty minutes of the session, select key students to raise questions, make points etc. that are important for everyone to hear.

Archer Plus

Throughout the semester, students will be given an opportunity to read, write and participate in discussions that carry ideas from the class into much deeper levels. Such “Archer Plus” activities are voluntary and have no impact on your grade. Feel free to reach out to Dr. Swerdlow to schedule other Archer Plus discussions.

Graded Assignments

Journal Entries and Weekly Discussion Board Posts

You will receive a 100-sheet journal and instructions on how to organize entries about all the sites you visit in Washington, DC. This journal belongs to you, and can contain material you that you may wish to keep private. You will use the journal to develop ideas to share each week in the class discussion board.

Each week, within 2 days after each class, you must **post three items (ideas, observations, questions, stories, ANYTHING) from your journal to the Discussion Board in your Discussion Group Channel.** This assignment is due by midnight two days *after* each class (e.g. for a Tuesday class, by midnight Thursday).

Students are encouraged to react to each other and be active on the Discussion Board.

Each week, your lecturer will assess your participation in the class Discussion Group and on the Discussion Board—and give you feedback.

During class-time, throughout the semester, periodic assessments will be made to verify that you are learning the basic concepts of the course. These assessments may consist of quick quizzes, or calling on students selected at random to answer questions.

Unless otherwise noted, the class will always begin PROMPTLY at 6:30 pm ET (5:30 pm CT). **Please log on 5 min ahead of class time to ensure we are able to start promptly.**

The format for each of the classes is as follows:

Part 1 (5:30-7 pm CT/6:30-8 pm ET): Everyone meets together with Dr. Swerdlow on Teams.

Part 2 (7-8 pm CT/8-9 pm ET): You meet with your assigned lecturer on Teams. Each week, 4 students from each of the Discussion Groups will join Dr. Swerdlow for this segment.

Part 3 (8-8:30 pm CT/ 9-9:30 ET): Everyone reconvenes with Dr. Swerdlow for wrap-up on Teams.

Videos will be shown at various times during each class.

The following meetings are posted to the **PSCI 4373 Teams**.

Class#	MODE	DAY	DATE	TIME – CENTRAL	TIME - EASTERN	Discussion Board post due
1	Virtual only	TUES	Jan 12	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	1/14- midnight
2	Virtual only	FRI	Jan 15	9 am – noon CT	10 am – 1 pm ET	1/17 - midnight
3	Virtual only	TUES	Jan 19	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	1/21- midnight
4	Virtual only	TUES	Jan 26	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	1/28 – midnight
5	Virtual + In-Person – Bubble X	TUES	Feb 2	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	2/4 – midnight
6	Virtual only	TUES	Feb 9	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	2/11 – midnight
7	Virtual + In-Person – Bubble Y	TUES	Feb 16	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	2/18 – midnight
8	Virtual only	TUES	Feb 23	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	2/25– midnight
9	Virtual + In-Person Bubble Z	TUES	Mar 2	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	3/4 – midnight
10	Virtual only	TUES	Mar 9	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	3/11 – midnight
11	Virtual + In-Person Bubble X	TUES	Mar 16	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	3/18 – midnight
12	Virtual only	TUES	Mar 23	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	3/25 – midnight
13	Virtual + In-Person Bubble Y	TUES	Mar 30	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	4/1– midnight
14	Virtual only	TUES	Apr 7	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	4/9 – midnight
15	Virtual + In-Person Bubble Z	TUES	Apr 13	5:30-8:30 pm CT	6:30-9:30 pm ET	

Calendar

HAVE FUN, AND PLEASE (!) CONTACT ME OR YOUR LECTURER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

At the beginning of each class, we will read a poem by Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes and Joy Harjo (now Poet Laureate at the Library of Congress—the first Native American to hold that position). As per events and student suggestions, other poets may be added.

Readings cited below must be completed *before* each class.

During the first hour of many classes, faculty members will deliver 5-10 minute lectures that reflect their particular interests and expertise.

NOTE PLEASE: Because class sessions are virtual, sites may appear in more than one cluster; depending on what is open, you may also be assigned to visit specific places.

Archer Plus

Sunday, March 14, noon-1 pm ET - Deep Reading Lincoln

We will use Abraham Lincoln's four State of the Union Messages to better understand how to:

- (1) “deep read” original documents;
- (2) improve writing skills; and
- (3) discover pervasively unrecognized aspects of Lincoln that help us identify and address what the U.S. needs today.

Class Schedule

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW (class session 1)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE: Entire Mall

1 – Tues, Jan 12 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

SUNRISE AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Basic ideas and goals; review of syllabus; skills taught; each student discusses their goals and core beliefs—and view of courage.

COURAGE CLUSTER (class sessions 2,3,4)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE:

Museums: MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE; AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM; LATINX AND WOMEN’S MUSEUMS (APPROVED BUT NOT SITED, FUNDED AND BUILT); NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Memorials: WORLD WAR I; INTERNMENT

Statues: MARY BETHUNE; ANDREW JACKSON; EMANCIPATION

Other sites: BLACK LIVES MATTER PLAZA

2 – Fri, Jan 15, (10 am – 1 pm ET/9 am - noon CT)

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WALK

10-11 am: Guest Speaker: Peter Wehner – “Repairing the Breach”

Required Reading

- *The Death of Politics: How to Heal Our Frayed Republic After Trump* (book mailed to you in December)
- “Choose Repair, Not Revenge,” Nov. 16, 2020, *The Atlantic*
(https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/11/repairing-breach/617113/?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share)

3 Tues, Jan 19, (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

IDENTITY MUSEUM WALK

Required Reading

- FBI, *Prosecutive Report of Report Concerning Roy Bryant, et. al.* (2006)
- *This America* , Chapter I-V

4 – Tues, Jan 26, (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

STATUE AND MEMORIAL LITERACY WALK

Required Reading

- *This America* , Chapter VI-X

CONSTITUTION CLUSTER (class sessions 5 & 6)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE:

Locations: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; NATIONAL ARCHIVES; CONSTITUTION GARDENS: LBJ GROVE; ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Statues: PEACE; NATIVE AMERICAN WARRIOR;

Memorials: *Memorials:* U.S. MARINE, PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL; WORLD WAR I, WORLD II, KOREA AND VIETNAM; VETERNS WITH LIFETIME DISABILITIES; WOMEN IN SERVICE TO AMERICA; EISENHOWER

5 – Tues, Feb 2 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

HOW IS THE U.S. CONSTITUTION DISPLAYED AND HONORED? WALK

Required Reading

- *This America*, Chapter XI-XVI

6 – Tues, Feb 9 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

CONGRESS SHALL DECLARE WAR WALK

Required Reading

- Assigned sections of *The Politics of National Memory—A Searchable Database* (assigned segments and topics)

DEMOCRACY CLUSTER (classes 7 & 8)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE:

Museums: HOLOCAUST MUSEUM;

Memorials: LINCOLN MEMORIAL;

Locations: U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING; U.S. SUPREME COURT; ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Locations: SHORT WALK ALONG THE POTOMAC RIVER

7 – Tues, Feb 16 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

DID THE SOUTH WIN THE PEACE? WALK

Required Reading

1938: Thomas Mann, *The Coming Victory of Democracy*, pp. 1-8

8 – Tues, Feb 23 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

WHAT IS “DEMOCRACY” AND WHAT KEEPS IT ALIVE? WALK

Required Reading

• Thomas Mann, *The Coming Victory of Democracy*, pp. 9-16

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (class 9)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE:

Memorials: MASON; JEFFERSON; LINCOLN; FDR, MLK

Museums: BIBLE; HOLOCAUST

9 – Tues, Mar 2 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED EQUAL WALK

Required Reading

• *An Economic Bill of Rights*
—Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776)

BILL OF RIGHTS CLUSTER (classes 10, 11 & 12)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE:

Memorials: JEFFERSON, MASON, FDR

Locations: U.S. SUPREME COURT BUILDING; U.S. CAPITOL; SITES OF MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON, DC THROUGHOUT U.S. HISTORY; UNMARKED SITE OF THE 1968 POOR PEOPLE'S ENCAMPMENT

Museums: MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE; NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM; U.S. ARMY MUSEUM; MUSEUM OF THE U.S. NAVY (future site)

10- Tues. Mar 9 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

IS THE BILL OF RIGHTS AN “INVENTED TRADITION”? WALK

Required Reading

- *An Economic Bill of Rights*
—English Bill of Rights (1688)

11- Tues. Mar 16 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

RONALD REAGAN VISITS THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL TO CHALLENGE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WALK

Required Reading

- *An Economic Bill of Rights*
—1944 & 1945: Franklin D Roosevelt, “Economic Bill of Rights”
—1987: Ronald Reagan, “An Economic Bill of Rights”

12- Mar 23 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

RIGHTS-IN-ACTION WALK: DEMONSTRATIONS AND LOBBYING MUSEUMS

- *An Economic Bill of Rights*
—all remaining documents

SCIENCE CLUSTER (classes 13 & 14)

SITES VISITED INCLUDE:

Locations: ARTS AND INDUSTRIES BUILDING; UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDENS

Museums: HEALTH & MEDICINE; NATURAL HISTORY; AIR AND SPACE

13- Tues, Mar 30 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY WALK

Required Reading

- *The Collapse of Western Civilization* [pp. 1-32]

14- Tues, Apr 7, (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT)

WATER ON THE MOON AND MARS WALK

Required Reading

- *The Collapse of Western Civilization* [pp. 33-52]

SUMMARY: REVIEW OF SKILLS AND IDEAS (class 15)

15- Tues, Apr 13 (6:30-9:30 pm ET/5:30-8:30 pm CT) – Last class

Grading Policy

Final grades—50 percent class participation and 50 percent journals—will be determined by Dr. Swerdlow and will include feedback from the Lecturers. Students who complete all assignments satisfactorily and in a timely manner will receive a B. Students who display excellence through written work and class participation will receive an A. Other students will receive lower than a B.

Final grades will be reported to your home UT System institution by **APRIL 30, 2021** and posted in accordance with their respective grade submission deadlines.

Course & Instructor Policies

There will be no scheduled tests, but unannounced quizzes may be conducted.

Every effort will be made to accommodate concerns related to family and to Covid-19

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.