

Political Science Department

*Course Alert for Spring 2006*

**Professor Keally McBride**

**Political Science 398-303**

**Tuesday and Thursday**

**1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

American Political Thought

Seminar in the history of American Political Thought, though discussion will encourage us to make links between the past decisions and present trends. Course will include readings by thinkers such as William Penn, Thomas Paine, Jefferson, Adams, Tocqueville, Lincoln, Thoreau, Emma Goldman, Randolph Bourne, and WEB DuBois. We will consider central tensions in American political thought and culture including: democratic idealism and institutional elitism, political ideals of equality and practices of subordination, and radicalism on both the right and the left. We will also examine the persistent (and still resonant) themes of distrust of the government and individualist ethics, which have served as the improbably solid political foundations of the United States.