**PS 308: U.S. Political Thought**  
CRN: 26431: Political Theory Subfield  
Class Room: 110 FEN  
Time: MW 4:00-5:20

**Instructor: Greg Liggett (gliggett@uoregon.edu)**  
Office Location: 816 PLC  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00  
Exam Week Office Hours: Monday, 12:30-2:30

**GTF: Shawna Meechan (meechan@uoregon.edu)**  
Office Location: 818 PLC  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:45-3:45

This course covers five areas of American political thought: theoretical foundations, the founding of the republic, slavery and free labor, social Darwinism and eugenics, and matters of distributive justice.

**Course Requirements:**

- **15%: Quizzes:** You are required to read the assigned material before coming to each class. To demonstrate that you have done so, **beginning on Monday of Week 2 you are required to take a short quiz in the Assignments folder on Blackboard before attending each respective class.** There are only six classes for which no quiz will be assigned: January 5th and 7th (Week 1 classes), February 2nd (midterm exam review), February 4th (midterm exam), March 11th (final exam review), and March 16th (final exam). The best way to remember this is: **beginning on Monday of Week 2, if there is a reading assignment for class, there is a corresponding quiz; if there is no reading assignment, there is no quiz.** Since the purpose of these quizzes is only to ensure that you have made an earnest attempt to understand the material before attending class, they will be short and easy. Each quiz will consist of one single question, and if you have completed the readings then the correct answer to the question should jump off the screen at you. Whereas the midterm and final exams are designed to test your critical thinking skills at a deep level, the quizzes are only meant to test your knowledge of the assigned material at the most basic level. By each Saturday night I will post the quizzes for the upcoming week and you are free to take them at your leisure, as long as each quiz is taken **before** that day’s class begins. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

- **15%: In-Class Writing Reflections:** There will be 10 unannounced in-class writing assignments. Taken together, these short in-class reflections are meant to gauge attendance and participation. For each reflection I will ask you to write about an
important theme in the reading. You are responsible for bringing a hard or electronic copy of the reading assignment to class, as well as paper and a writing utensil. A thoughtful response will receive full credit; an off-topic response will receive zero credit.

- **25%: Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will be held during class on **February 4th** and will cover the material assigned during the first five weeks of class. This exam will be a combination of multiple choice and long essay. I will post a midterm exam study guide to Blackboard by January 28th.

- **25%: Final Exam:** The final exam will be held at **2:45 on March 16th.** This exam will also be a combination of multiple choice and long essay. I will post a final exam study guide to Blackboard by March 9th.

- **20%: Essay:** I will post the instructions, guidelines, and expectations for this paper to Blackboard in the ‘Course Documents’ section by January 21st. A hardcopy of this essay is due at the beginning of class on **March 11th**, the final day of class.

**Assigned Readings:**

Most reading assignments can be found in the following edited anthology:


The rest of the readings are available on Blackboard in the ‘Course Documents’ section.

**Course Reading Schedule:**

Week 1

January 5: Introduction, no reading

I. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

January 7: James Morone, *Hellfire Nation*, Preface to Chapter 1 and Chapter 1 (available on Blackboard); John Winthrop, *Puritan Political and Social Ideals* (APT, 11-16)

Week 2

January 12: John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, entire excerpt (available on Blackboard)

II. THE FOUNDING

Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance (APT, 113); John Adams, Novanglus (APT, 119-124); John Adams, Thoughts on Government (APT, 124-130)

Week 3

January 19: M.L.K. Day, no class

January 21: Thomas Paine, Common Sense (APT, 131-149); Thomas Paine, The American Crisis (APT, 149-151); Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence (APT, 151-154)

Week 4

January 26: The Articles of Confederation (APT, 155-162); James Madison, Federalist 10 (APT, 199-205); Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 23 (APT, 205-209); James Madison, Federalist 51 (APT, 219-223)

January 28: Richard Henry Lee, Letters from the Federal Farmer (APT, 248-256); Robert Yates, Essays of Brutus (APT, 256-266); Patrick Henry, Debate in the Virginia Ratifying Convention (APT, 266-274); James Madison, Address to the House of Representatives on Amending the Constitution (APT, 274-281); Bill of Rights (APT, 281)

Week 5

February 2: Midterm Exam Review Session, no assigned readings

February 4: Midterm Exam

III. SLAVERY AND FREE LABOR

Week 6

February 9: Benjamin Rush, An Address...Upon Slave Keeping (APT, 536-542); Thomas Paine, African Slavery in America (APT, 542-545); Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia (APT, 546-554)

February 11: William Lloyd Garrison, The Liberator (APT, 554-559); William Lloyd Garrison, Declaration of Sentiments of the American Anti-Slavery Society (APT, 559-563); William Ellery Channing, Slavery (APT, 563-572); Angelina Grimke, Appeal to the Christian Women of the South (APT, 572-577)

Week 7

February 16: Frederick Douglass, Lectures on Slavery (APT, 591-594); Frederick Douglass, What is the Slave to the Fourth of July? (APT, 594-598); John C. Calhoun, Speeches on Slavery (APT, 601-607); George Fitzhugh, Sociology for the South; or, the Failure of Free Society (APT, 624-636); George Fitzhugh, Cannibals All! Or, Slaves Without Masters (APT, 636-643)
IV. SOCIAL DARWINISM AND EUGENICS


Week 8

February 25: Madison Grant, *The Passing of the Great Race*, Chapters 1-7 (available on Blackboard); Paul Popenoe, *Applied Eugenics*, only Chapters 10 and 14 (available on Blackboard)

V. CIVIL RIGHTS

Week 9

March 2: Martin Luther King, Jr., *The Power of Nonviolence* (APT, 1305-1308); Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (APT, 1308-1317); Malcolm X, *The Ballot or the Bullet* (APT, 1322-1328); Stokely Carmichael, *Toward Black Liberation* (APT, 1339-1344)

VI. DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE


Week 10


March 11: Final Exam Review Session, no assigned readings

Week 11

March 16: **Final Exam at 2:45**