PL SC 322
EARLY AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
1620 – 1865

Instructor: Brent Gilchrist
Office: 730 SWKT  Office Hours: Thurs. 11-12 & by appointment
e-mail: brent_gilchrist@byu.edu (best/fastest way to contact me any time)

Introduction:
This course involves a consideration of some of the major themes/issues that emerge in studies of the American founding. The founding is considered in a broad sense, taking into account ideas & institutions developing over several centuries of American history – with brief considerations of the earliest English settlements in America, America’s colonial history, America’s post-Constitutional history, Manifest Destiny, and the Civil War. We will examine the American Revolution and the Constitutional period in greater detail. Since much of the course involves considerations of relationships between ideals and institutions, America’s political culture will underscore our studies – American myth, religion, civil religion, and ideology will demand our attention. We will look at different interpretations of the founding, as well as some of the key themes/principles that continue to capture American imaginations and world attention into the present.

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION:

(55%) Formal Writing

15% 1 Analytical Book Review: Book reviews will be 6-8 pages. Reviews of the highest calibre are expected. You may use a book that you are using for your research essay (best if you do).

40% 1 Research Paper: Research papers will be 12-14 pages. These also should be of high quality, comprised of critical considerations of primary & secondary sources, with clear arguments and a well-developed central thesis. Before writing the research essay, students are required to submit a brief abstract, including their thesis statement and an annotated bibliography, which will count for 5% – due Oct.12. The final paper, worth 35%, must include a revised annotated bibliography, and is due Dec.7.

(15%) Participation & Informal Writing

5% Reading & Participation Journals: May be collected & graded periodically.

10% Participation & Discussion: attendance, participation, preparation

(30%) Final Examination

Any and all late assignments, regardless of arrangements made with the instructor, will be penalized one-half letter grade during the first week after the due date (eg. B will become B-). Assignments submitted later than 1 week after the due date will be penalized a full letter grade (eg. B will become C). University excused absences will be exempt from this penalty.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Bailyn, Ideological Origins of the American Revolution
Pangle, The Spirit of Modern Republicanism
Holland, Bonds of Affection: Civic Charity and the Making of America
Calhoun, A Disquisition on Government

Laptop Use in Class:
Laptop use in class is permitted FOR NOTE TAKING ONLY. Using laptops in class for browsing the web, checking email, admiring family photos, playing games, etc., is distracting for other students, rude, and harmful to your health. If you use your laptop in class for any reason other than taking notes you will no longer be permitted to bring your laptop to class. Please be prudent.
CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:
This is a tentative schedule that will be subject to change according to class discussion and interest/needs. Therefore, it is important that students pay attention to our progress and govern their reading accordingly.

* = readings to be supplied electronically

Aug.30:    Gilchrist, “Universe of American Diversity”*
            *Bonds of Affection, pp.1-14*

Sept.4:    *Bonds of Affection, pp.19-84 (pp.261-276 “A Modell of Christian Charity”)*

Sept.6:    Hughes, “Recovering First Times”*
            Whitaker, “Good Newes from Virginia”*

            Background on Bacon's Rebellion:
            http://www.nps.gov/jame/historyculture/bacons-rebellion.htm
            http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/jame1/moretti-langholtz/chap8.htm

Sept.13:   Locke, Second Treatise of Government (selections)*

            Hatch, “Origins of Civil Millennialism in America”*
            Street, “American States as Children of Israel”*


Sept.25:   *Ideological Origins of the Revolution, Chs.3-4*

Sept.27:   *Ideological Origins of the Revolution, Chs.3-4*

Oct.2:     Boorstin, “Revolution Without Dogma”*
            *Bonds of Affection, pp.91-122*


Oct.16:    *The Federalist, Nos. 9, 10, 14, 39*

Oct.18:    *The Federalist, Nos. 57, 62, 63, 47, 48, 49, 51*

            Roche, “Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action”*

Oct.25:    Stiles, “U.S. Elevated to Glory & Honor”*
            Langdon, “Republic of Israelites an Example to American States*
            *Bonds of Affection, pp.128-151(pp.283-287 Jefferson’s First Inaugural)*
Oct.30:  Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (selections)*

Nov.1:  Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (selections)*
        Hancock, “Tocqueville on the Good of American Federalism”*

-------------
Nov.6:  Calhoun, *A Disquisition on Government*

Nov.8:  Calhoun, *A Disquisition on Government*

-------------
Nov.13: Joseph Smith, selections*

Nov.15: Joseph Smith, selections*

-------------
Nov.20: FRIDAY INSTRUCTION – NO CLASS

Nov.22: THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

-------------
Nov.27:  *Bonds of Affection*, pp.159-195

Nov.29:  Beecher, “A Plea for the West”*
        *Bonds of Affection*, pp.200-214; pp.219-256 (pp.289-290 Lincoln’s Second Inaugural)

-------------
Dec.4:  West, “Jaffa vs. Mansfield: Is the Dec. of Ind. or the Constitution America’s Soul?”*
        Wise, “Our Country’s Place in History”*

Dec.6:  Huntington, *American Politics* (excerpts)*
        Huntington, “American Ideals versus American Institutions”*
        Brigham Young, *Discourses* (excerpt)*

**TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM – DUE: DEC.14, 5 PM**

PLEASE NOTE
Preventing Sexual Harassment
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the University but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities
Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You may contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.