This course provides an overview of the main strands of contemporary political philosophy—utilitarianism, liberal egalitarianism, libertarianism, Marxism, communitarianism, citizenship theory, multiculturalism, and feminism—as well as more detailed attention to two seminal works of contemporary political thought: Iris Marion Young’s *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990) and Elizabeth Anderson’s *The Imperative of Integration* (2010).

**Instructor Contact**

Instructor: Dr. Trevor Latimer  
Office: Baldwin 103A  
Office Hours: TBA. Please participate in Doodle poll.  
Phone: 510-299-5272 (for emergencies)  
E-mail: tlatimer@uga.edu

**Course Information**

Course Title: Contemporary Political Thought  
Course ID: POLS 4030  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Semester/Year: Spring 2016  
Time/Location: MWF / 12:20-1:10 / Peabody Hall 201

**Course Description**

Major issues in contemporary political thought with attention to the theoretical roots of major contemporary ideologies.

**Prerequisite**

POLS 1101

**Required Texts**


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1 The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.  
2 Inexpensive copies can be found here: [http://www.dealoz.com/](http://www.dealoz.com/) If you prefer a Kindle edition, please contact me for pagination.
Attendance Policy

Required.

Course Requirements

Critical Essays Three critical essays. ~1500 words each. Topics to be announced. Essays due at the beginning of class in hard copy.

- Paper #1 20% of final grade. Due Friday, February 12, 2016.
- Paper #4 30% of final grade. Due Monday, April 25, 2016.

Reading Quizzes Five reading quizzes given on randomly selected Fridays. 10% of final grade. Quizzes graded on \{0, 1, 2\} basis. Answers to quiz questions should be easy if you have kept up with reading. Material from all reading assignments up to quiz date is ‘fair game.’

Final Exam In class final exam with questions that can be answered in a short paragraph, designed to encourage class attendance. 15% of final grade. The final exam is Wednesday, May 4, 12:00-3:00pm.

Reading Schedule

Week 1: Introduction & Utilitarianism [Jan. 11]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 1-52.

- Monday: Syllabus & Introduction
- Wednesday: pp. 1-20
- Friday: pp. 20-52

Week 2: Liberal Equality [Jan. 18]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 53-101

- Monday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Optional: Letter From a Birmingham Jail, Lincoln’s Second Inaugural

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3 Approximately 20 pages per class meeting.
Wednesday: pp. 53-75
Friday: pp. 75-101

Week 3: Libertarianism [Jan 25]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 102-165.

Monday: pp. 102-127
Wednesday: pp. 128-138
Friday: pp. 138-165

Week 4: Marxism [Feb. 1]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 168-207.

Monday: pp. 168-175
Wednesday: pp. 176-195
Friday: pp. 195-207

Week 5: Communitarianism [Feb. 8]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 208-283

Monday: pp. 208-228
Wednesday: pp. 228-244
Friday: pp. 244-283

Week 6: Citizenship Theory [Feb. 15]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 284-326.

Monday: pp. 284-299
Wednesday: pp. 299-312
Friday: pp. 312-326

Week 7: Multiculturalism [Feb. 22]
Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, pp. 327-376.

Monday: pp. 327-343
Wednesday: pp. 344-365
Friday: pp. 365-376
Week 8: Feminism [Feb. 29]

- **Monday**: pp. 377-386
- **Wednesday**: pp. 386-398
- **Friday**: pp. 398-430

Spring Break [Mar. 7]

Week 9: Young [Mar. 14]

- **Monday**: pp. 3-14
- **Wednesday**: pp. 15-24
- **Friday**: pp. 24-38

Week 10: Young [Mar. 21]

- **Monday**: pp. 39-65
- **Wednesday**: No class.
- **Friday**: No class.

Week 11: Young [Mar. 28]

- **Monday**: pp. 66-76
- **Wednesday**: pp. 76-88
- **Friday**: pp. 88-95

Week 12: Young [Apr. 4]

- **Monday**: pp. 156-183
- **Wednesday**: pp. 183-206
- **Friday**: pp. 206-225
Week 13: Anderson [Apr. 11]

**Monday:** pp. 1-22  
**Wednesday:** pp. 23-43  
**Friday:** pp. 44-66

Week 14: Anderson [Apr. 18]
Anderson, *The Imperative of Integration*, pp. 67-134.

**Monday:** pp. 67-88  
**Wednesday:** pp. 89-111  
**Friday:** pp. 112-134

Week 15: Anderson [Apr. 25]

**Monday:** pp. 135-154  
**Wednesday:** pp. 155-179  
**Friday:** pp. 180-191

Week 16: Shelby [May 2]


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**Evaluation & Grading**

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**Academic Honesty**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: [http://www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.
Disability Statement

UGA is committed to the success of all learners, and we strive to create an inclusive and accessible online environment. In collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (http://drc.uga.edu/), we work with students who have documented disabilities to access reasonable accommodations and academic supports. For more information or to speak with a Disability coordinator, please call the Disability Resource Center at (706) 542-8719, TTY only phone (706) 542-8778.