**Politics 33B Essay Topic #1**

***Due on or before Fri, Feb 26th 5pm***

***via Sakai Drop Box***

Using evidence from the cases and readings we have looked at thus far in the semester, please write a six-seven page double-spaced essay that mobilizes a specific interpretive theory or framework (e.g., Originalism, living constitutionalism, constitutional fidelity, representation reinforcing review, or other) to argue for or against the following claim:

***Thomas Jefferson’s metaphor of a “wall of separation between church and state” is a constitutionally justified and appropriate guide for interpreting the language and purpose of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause.***

Whichever way you argue, be sure to provide ample support using a mixture of constitutional text, structure, history, and relevant precedent within your chosen interpretive framework.

No outside sources or research are necessary for this assignment. When citing material from the reader, please cite in footnotes or endnotes and include case name, page number in reader, and paragraph in which the cited material appears. You may use outside sources, but please do so only to supplement the assigned readings, not as a substitution for them. **Please use standard font and margins (Times New Roman, 12 pt and 1 inch margins on top, bottom, left and right).**

**VERY IMPORTANT**: DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THE ESSAY. INCLUDE ONLY YOUR **STUDENT ID #** ON THE FRONT PAGE AND/OR IN THE HEADER/ FOOTER AREA OF EACH PAGE.