

University of Florida
Dept. of Political Science

POT4053 – Sect. #12D4 – Great Political Thinkers II

Instructor: Mauro J. Caraccioli, M.A. | mjcaraccioli@ufl.edu
Spring Semester (2015) – Office Hours: MF (12:00-1:00) in Anderson 320
Meetings: MWF (Period 4 – 10:40-11:30) | Room: FAC 127
Course Home Page: <http://people.clas.ufl.edu/mjcaraccioli/courses/pot4053/>

Course Summary: This is an advanced undergraduate seminar that exposes students to in-depth readings of seminal thinkers and texts in the history of political thought. The themes in question for this course range from humanist inquiries into the nature of civilization, historical accounts for the revival of lost traditions, and prophetic calls for the radical transformation of the individual. For students of Political Science, studying the history of modern political thought provides a foundation in the vocabulary and language of contemporary social science; yet more than this, it also speaks to our all too human desire to know the world, so that we may change it. Specifically, we will explore how the relation between nature and man has preoccupied political theorists from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, as well as how distinctions between humanity and nature offer a compelling understanding of politics. By comparing foundational and lesser-known texts, we will also assess how the works of modern political thinkers are defined by a profound concern with the changing political landscape of an increasingly interdependent world.

Learning Objectives:

- To study the political vocabularies and languages of seminal thinkers from the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Romantic era, and the Age of Ideology.
- To critically analyze and understand key concepts and ideas in the history of political thought (e.g., natural history, natural law, power, indigeneity, the state of nature, feminism, transcendence, etc.), tracing their narrative evolution across different thinkers and contexts.
- To familiarize students with original source writings in the history of political theory, assessing how different strands of thought inform each other and our world today.

Books: Required for the course – Available in the **UF Bookstore** or **Amazon.com**

- Bartolomé de las Casas, *In Defense of the Indians* (Northern Illinois, 1992)
- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Cambridge, 1988)
- Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, *The First New Chronicle* (Hackett, 2006)
- Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* (Oxford, 2009)
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *Maria: or, The Wrongs of Woman* (Norton, 1994)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (Penguin, 2003)
- Grégoire Chamayou, *Manhunts: A Philosophical History* (Princeton, 2012)

Methodology and Requirements

Includes: lectures, readings, two review prospectuses, two book reviews, in-class discussion leadership (details on first day of class), and a final research project.

Additional Readings: In addition to the required books mentioned above, the instructor will provide required readings from the history of political thought in electronic format through the course homepage: <http://people.clas.ufl.edu/mjcaraccioli/courses/pot4053/>.

Grade	Two (2) Review Prospectuses	10%
Distribution:	Two (2) Book Reviews Essays	40%
(100%)	Final Research Project	30%
	Participation and Attendance:	20%

Review Prospectus I & II: Prior to crafting a book review essay, students will submit a 250 word abstract of their essay along with two to three secondary resources they will consult for their review. Sample secondary materials are listed at the end of the syllabus. Each prospectus constitutes five (5) percent of the final grade in the course and is **due the first Friday we cover a book**. Prospectuses may be submitted in person, or, via e-mail.

Review Essays I & II: Students will write two (2) book reviews, five double-spaced pages in length; 1” margins, Times New Roman, size 12. Each review constitutes twenty (20) percent of the final grade in the course and is **due the Monday we finish a book**. Review essays will be based on discussions, readings, and the student’s creative understanding. At least one (1) review **MUST** come from either **Unit II** or **Unit III** in the **Course Program**.

Final Research Project: Comprehensive project based on a topic previously discussed with and approved by instructor, corresponding to the central theme of the course. Project may take the form of a research paper (of six [6] min., seven [7] max. double-spaced typed pages), or, a visual arts project with accompanying three-page prospectus. Instructions will be distributed on **January 23**. The project is worth thirty (30) percent of the final grade in the course with **three phases** being submitted to the instructor for review and feedback across the semester. The final version is due **Friday, April 24, by 5:00PM in Anderson Hall 320**. Any project that is not received at (or before) the due date will be given an “E” grade.

*****Review Prospectuses, Review Essays, the Final Research Project, and active attendance, are all required for successful completion of the course.*****

Grade Scale: The awarding of a grade represents a judgment on **the quality of student performance** in the course; **it is not a reward for mere attendance or for trying hard**.

Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score
A	95-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-94	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

Course Policies & Expectations

Last day to drop this class with no fee liabilities is January 12, 2015.

Academic Honesty: All work in this course must be the student's own. In compliance with [UF's Student Conduct & Honor Code](#), anyone guilty of cheating or plagiarism will fail the course and **be reported to the University for disciplinary procedures.**

Participation & Attendance: Students are responsible for all the lectures, instructions, and assignments (readings, exercises, exams, and papers) given at **any regular session**. Attendance at all sessions is required and necessary for successful completion of the course. **5% of the participation grade will result from leadership of one discussion session.**

Electronic Etiquette Policy: Use of All Electronic Devices is Prohibited in Class, including voice-recording of lectures, cell-phone use, tablets, and laptop computers. Exceptional situations will be considered by the instructor on an individual basis.

LATE-POLICY: Students arriving late, i.e., any time after the first ten (10) minutes of class (i.e., 10:50 a.m.) are **NOT PERMITTED** to enter the classroom. **Being late suggests harmful reluctance to one's task at hand and disrupts the work of others.**

IMPORTANT: Unexcused absence from even one regular session indicates a serious neglect of work by the student toward meeting the requirements of the course. A sign-in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class in order to keep *a record of attendance*. This record is established for each student at each session during the entire semester, beginning with **the second week of classes** (Monday, January 12th). **You have only two (2) "free" absences throughout the semester.** Penalties will be withheld **only if** the student presents a **WRITTEN** (no fax; no e-mail; no voice-mail) and acceptable justification (indicating the name of the student, the date of and reason for the absence, and appropriate or necessary documentation) before the following class session. Only appropriate, substantial reasons (e.g., hospitalization, serious illness, untoward event, family emergency) constitute acceptable justification. As a rule, **no late assignments will be accepted.** If a student fails to submit their work as a result of illness or accident, s/he must advise the instructor as soon as possible and prior to the due date of the assignment. If the student has a valid excuse (to be determined by the instructor), s/he may be given extra time to finish the assignment at the instructor's discretion.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. Please see me as soon as possible to arrange this.

Important Note: The instructor reserves the right to amend any of the administrative information (syllabus, readings, exams, paper) throughout the course of the semester and **will inform students with due time and consideration** of any such changes.

Course Program for POT4053 (Spring 2015)

* = Provided by Instructor

- Unit I: The (Natural) History of Political Thought
 - Week I (Jan. 7, 9): Introductions; *Skinner pp. 1-7; *Cohen, pp. 39-62.
 - Week II (Jan. 12, 14, 16): **Physiologus*, p. 3-67 (68-92); *Adorno, pp. 1-34.

- Unit II: New World Nature and Renaissance Bestiaries
 - Week III (MLK; Jan. 21, 23): Las Casas, pp. 1-150.
 - Week IV (Jan. 26, 28, 30 [RD]): *Arias, pp. 121-36; Las Casas, pp. 151-250.
 - Las Casas Prospectus Due on JANUARY 23rd
 - Book Review Due on FEBRUARY 2nd BR#: _____

 - Week V (Feb. 2, 4, 6): *Skinner, pp. ix-xxvii; Machiavelli, pp. 3-91.
 - Week VI (Feb. 9): *Lukes, pp. 561-75; *Arieti, pp. 381-97.
 - Machiavelli Prospectus Due on FEBRUARY 6th
 - Book Review Due on FEBRUARY 16th BR#: _____

- Unit III: Indigenous and European Revivals
 - Week VI: (Feb. 11, 13): Guaman Poma, pp. vii-xxxii; 1-68.
 - PAPER PHASE #1: Final Project Abstract & Sources Due on FEBRUARY 13th
 - Week VII (Feb. 16, 18, 20): ISA MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS
 - Week VIII (Feb. 23, 25, 27): *Adorno, pp. 121-43; Guaman Poma, pp. 101-42; 143-66.
 - Guaman Poma Prospectus Due on FEBRUARY 20th
 - Book Review Due on MARCH 2nd BR#: _____

- Week IX (Mar. 2-6): SPRING BREAK

- Week X (Mar. 9, 11, 13): Rousseau, pp. vii-54; *Thomas, pp. 455-81.
- PAPER PHASE #2: Final Project Prospectus Due on MARCH 9
- Week XI (Mar. 16, 18, 20 [ASPECT]): Rousseau, pp. 55-85; *Cook, pp. 181-201.
 - Rousseau Prospectus Due on MARCH 13
 - Book Review Due on MARCH 23 BR#: _____

- Unit IV: Of (Wo)Men and Beasts
 - Week XII (Mar. 23, 25, 27): Wollstonecraft, ALL; *Shelley.
 - Week XIII (Mar. 30): *Rendall, pp. 155-72; *O'Neill, pp. 21-49.
 - Wollstonecraft Prospectus Due on MARCH 27
 - Book Review Due on APRIL 6 BR#: _____

 - Week XIII (Apr. 1, 3): Nietzsche, pp. 11-35; 39-104; *Thiele, pp. 88-108.
 - Week XIV (Apr. 6, 8, 10): *Lemm, pp. 61-85; Nietzsche, pp. 107-336.
 - Nietzsche Prospectus Due on APRIL 3
 - Review Due on APRIL 13 BR#: _____

- Unit V: Unnatural Histories
 - Week XV (Apr. 13, 15, 17): *Marder, pp. 47-60; Chamayou, pp. 1-77.
 - Week XVI (Apr. 20, 22): Chamayou, pp. 78-155; WRAP-UP.
 - PAPER PHASE #3: Final Project Due on April 24.