

POT 4053: Great Political Thinkers II

Professor Dan O'Neill
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OH: Wed., 11am-1pm

Spring 2023
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

This class is designed to familiarize students with a number of thinkers, concepts, and issues that are central to political modernity. While the course is in no way meant to be exhaustive in its scope, the authors we read have all been seen as crucial to the articulation of a number of intellectual traditions that continue to exert a profound impact on the contemporary world (including political absolutism, classical and welfare liberalism, capitalism, socialism, Black political thought, feminism, and anarchism). Topics to be covered include (but will not be limited to): the idea of the “social contract”; political obligation, political obedience, and the right of resistance; the various sources, meanings, and theoretical status of such topics as natural rights, popular sovereignty, private property, history, and human nature; and the salience of race and gender. We will also touch on such additional thorny problems as political inclusion and exclusion, the relationship between ethics and politics, the relationship between commercial and political life, the consequences of economic inequality, the role of colonialism, and the like. Our broader goal in this course is to think critically about the ways in which this knowledge derived from reflection upon old texts might inform our approach to political life in the present. No lecture, however, is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Portable Machiavelli (Penguin, ed. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa)
ISBN: **0140150927**

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Cambridge, ed. Richard Tuck)
ISBN: **0521567971**

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Liberty Fund, ed. D.D. Raphael and A.L. Macfie)
ISBN: **0865970122**

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Writings* (Cambridge, ed. Stefan Collini)
ISBN: **0521379172**

The Essential Douglass: Selected Writings and Speeches (Hackett, ed. Nicholas Buccola)
ISBN: **1624664539**

Emma Goldman, *Anarchism and Other Essays* (Graphyco Annotated Edition)
ISBN: **979862501579**

Course Requirements:

This is a face-to-face lecture and discussion class. Attendance and participation are mandatory and will be graded. In the event you cannot attend class in person for a legitimate reason (e.g., you are not cleared to come to campus), alternative assignments for attendance and participation will be provided and are required to fulfill this portion of your grade.

Assignments and Grading: Grades for the course will be determined by 5 components: 1 paper of 6-8 pages in length (25 points); 2 in-class written exams (25 points each); attendance (10 points) and active participation (15 points). Your participation grade can be achieved through weekly discussion in class, or by submitting a 1 page response paper directly to me for every week you did not get a chance to speak meaningfully in class. These components will be aggregated into an overall letter grade at the end of the course, in keeping with current UF policies for assigning grade points, which you can access by following this [link to the university grades and grading policies](#).

There will also be an **OPTIONAL** 6-8 page final paper worth up to 3 points. Topics will be handed out on the last day of class, and papers are due by 7:30 pm on May 4 at the latest. Any paper received after that will not be graded.

The highest grade any late assignment can receive in the absence of a legitimate excuse is a “C+.” An example of a legitimate excuse would be an illness for which you have a signed doctor’s note. Please be aware: A “C+” is not the lowest grade a late assignment can receive; it is the highest (i.e., it is the ceiling, not the floor). The exams will be entirely essay based; questions will be distributed beforehand. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Click here to read the university attendance policies; [Attendance Policies < University of Florida \(ufl.edu\)](#)

The course is out of 100 total points, and the Grading Scale is as follows: 93-100 (A); 90-92 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 83-86 (B); 80-82 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 73-76 (C); 70-72 (C-); 67-69 (D+); 63-66 (D); 60-62 (D-); 0-59 (E; failing)

Preparation: You should do the reading for a given session prior to coming to class on that day. If you are playing catch up on the reading, you will be in trouble in this course.

Policy on Academic Integrity: All students are required to abide by the University of Florida’s Academic Honesty Guidelines. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you

are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Among other things, this policy means that cheating on exams is totally unacceptable, as is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of portraying as your own the words or ideas of other people. Examples include submitting entire papers, or portions of papers, that you did not write (*e.g.*, old papers written by other students, new papers written by other students, papers which you paid a “research” service to write for you, papers or portions of papers downloaded from the Internet), and the use of Artificial Intelligence methods instead of doing the work yourself. Copying verbatim or paraphrasing any substantial portion of text by another author without acknowledging the source via quotation and/or footnotes is plagiarism. Plagiarism is far easier to spot than you might think. Do not ruin your experience in this or any other class by engaging in academic dishonesty. **This should be made somewhat easier in the current class because all outside sources are strictly forbidden.**

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) **It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.**

Class Demeanor: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion (including online conversations) should be held at a minimum, if at all. Phones should be turned off prior to class. Save Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter, etc., until your free time.

Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in the Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)

Materials and Supplies Fees: There are no additional fees for this course.

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Policy Regarding in Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Lecture, Reading, and Discussion Schedule:

January 10 (T): Introduction/syllabus walk through

January 12 (TH): Groundwork/Machiavelli
Portable Machiavelli, pp. 77-95 (*The Prince*)

January 17 (T) Machiavelli
Portable Machiavelli, pp. 96-166 (*The Prince*)

January 19 (TH) Machiavelli
Portable Machiavelli, pp. 168-228, 252-253, 281-287 (*Discourses*)

January 24 (T) Machiavelli
Portable Machiavelli, pp. 287-301, 320, 314-316, 319-325, 326-338, 342-345, 351-356, 386-388, 400-402, 416-418 (*Discourses*)

January 26 (TH) Hobbes

Leviathan, pp. 1-62

January 31 (T) Hobbes

Leviathan, pp. 62-115

February 2 (TH) Hobbes

Leviathan, pp. 117-182

February 7 (T) Hobbes

Leviathan, pp. 183-254

(Paper Topics Handed Out)

February 9 (TH) Smith

The Theory of Moral Sentiments, pp. 1-26, 308-314, 126-127, 200

February 14 (T) Smith

The Theory of Moral Sentiments, pp. 27-93,

(Paper Due)

February 16 (TH) Smith

The Theory of Moral Sentiments, pp. 135-161, 179-187,

February 21 (T) Smith

The Theory of Moral Sentiments, pp. 213-264

February 23 (TH) Mill

On Liberty and Other Writings, pp. 5-74

February 28 (T) Mill

On Liberty and Other Writings, pp. 75-116

March 2 (TH) Mill

(Exam Questions Handed Out)

On Liberty and Other Writings, pp. 221-248

March 7 (T) Mill

On Liberty and Other Writings, pp. 249-279

March 9 (TH): In Class Blue Book Exam

March 14 (T): NO CLASS (Spring Break)

March 16 (TH): NO CLASS (Spring Break)

March 21 (T): Douglass

Essential Douglass, pp. 12-20, 50-71

March 23 (TH): Douglass

Essential Douglass, pp. 76-89, 119-132, 148-196

March 28 (T): Douglass

Essential Douglass, 216-231

March 30 (TH) Douglass

Essential Douglass, pp. 235-331

April 4 (T) Goldman

Anarchism and Other Essays, pp. 1-26

April 6 (TH): Goldman

Anarchism and Other Essays, pp. 27-122

April 11 (T): Goldman

Anarchism and Other Essays, pp. 127-178

April 13 (TH): Goldman

Anarchism and Other Essays, pp. 179-222

Exam Questions Handed Out

April 18 (T): Discussion

April 20 (TH): In Class Blue Book Exam

April 25 (T): Conclusion

Final Exam: Optional final paper due BY May 4 at 7:30 PM