Syllabus POT 4305
Fall 2011

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	The State, Society, and the Individual
Course ID & Section	POT 4305 – 0W59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2011
Location	Web

Course Description

This course addresses the question of how people can develop political and economic institutions that best serve their interests. The focus of the course is an examination of the institutions of **capitalism** and **democracy** as the means of organizing, respectively, an economy and a polity. We will look at arguments in favor of these institutions, as well as arguments on their limitations. Primary emphasis is on works of the 19th and 20th centuries that have had a major impact on the way we think about the individual and society.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course you will:

- Be familiar with contributions the authors we cover in this course make to democratic and economic theory
- Develop a better understanding of the relationship between democracy and capitalism
- Develop a better understanding of the principles and mechanism of democracy and capitalism
- Develop a better understanding of the implications of the institutions of democracy and capitalism for the individual
- Analyze critically certain aspects of democratic and economic theory
- Analyze critically current social issues

Required Texts & Additional Course Readings

- R.L. Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers*, Touchstone (0-684-862149)
- J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, Hackett Publishing Company (0-915144-43-3)
- Herbert Marcuse, *An Essay on Liberation*, Beacon Press (0-8070-0595-9)
- Ellie Wiesel, Night, *Bantam Books* (0553272535)
- M. Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, Harvard University Press (0-674-53751-3)
- R. Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Basic Books (0-465-02121-2)

The remaining readings will be found either on the web (see Links in Course Content) or/and in the Modules. Additional course materials may be distributed to class via the modules or electronically via the e-community. Please make sure you have your current e-mail address in e-community.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

There will be a penalty of one letter grade for all late work (except for cases involving overriding and well documented personal circumstances).

There will be no extra credit for this course.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Module 1	10%
Modules 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 10	60%
Modules 9, 11	20%

Module 12	10%
Total	100%

The grading system is as follows:

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in

alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Schedule POT 4305 - Fall 2011

Week/Dates	Topic & Reading	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1 Aug 22	Getting Started Gabriel A. Almond, “Capitalism and Democracy”	Module 1	Aug 26, 11 PM
Week 2 Aug 29	Adam Smith *The Wealth of Nations*: Book 1, chapters 1,2,4,8; Book 5, chapter 1,	Module 2	Sept 2, 11 PM

	Part III, article II. R.L. Heilbroner, “The Wonderful World of Adam Smith”		
Week 3 Sept 6	John Stuart Mill *On Liberty* *R.L Heilbroner, pp. 127-135*	Module 3	Sept 9, 11 PM
Week 4 Sept 12	Alexis de Tocqueville *Democracy in America*, Volume 1: chapters 5-8; Volume 2, part 1: chapters 2,5,10,20; Part 2: chapters 5,7-15,19,20; Part 3: chapters 1,4,7,12,18; Part 4: chapters 6	Module 4	Sept 16, 11 PM
Week 5 Sept 19	Karl Marx “Estranged Labour” in Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844: Selections. R.L Heilbroner, “The Inexorable System of Karl Marx”	Module 5	Sept 23, 11 PM
Week 6 Sept 26	J.M. Keynes “The General Theory of Employment” in Collected Works, volume 14, pp. 109-123. R.L. Heilbroner, “The Heresies of John Maynard Keynes”	Module 6	Sept 30, 11 PM
Week 7 Oct 3	Ellie Wiesel *Night*	Module 7	Oct 7, 11 PM
Week 8 Oct 10	H. Marcuse *An Essay on Liberation*	Module 8	Oct 14, 11 PM
Week 9 Oct 17	Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	Module 9	Oct 21, 11 PM
Week 10 Oct 24	Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	Module 9	Oct 28, 11 PM

Week 11 Oct 31	M. Olson *The Logic of Collective Action*	Module 10	Nov 4, 11 PM
Week 12 Nov 7	R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation*	Module 11	Nov 10, 11 PM
Week 13 Nov 14	R. Axelrod	Module 11	Nov 18, 11 PM
Week 14 Nov 21	**Thanksgiving**		
Week 15 Nov 28	Overview & Final Assignment	Module 12	Dec 5, 11 PM

Note: All dates and times are subject to change by Dr. Kinsey. Be informed and routinely check the Schedule for any changes or updates.