POT 4025
Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Political Philosophy
Spring 2012
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-10:15
Valencia West Building 11, Room 314

Instructor: Nathan Ilderton
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Office Hours: 1:00-3:00 Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment
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Course Description:
This course examines the history of political thought from the ancient Greeks through the writings of Niccolò Machiavelli. In this course we will pay particular attention to the philosophical foundations created by Greek thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle, the impact of the advent of Christianity on political thought, and finally the beginnings of modern political thought in the work of Machiavelli.

Course Objectives:
The primary objective of this course is to gain an understanding of the history of political philosophy from its beginnings in Ancient Greece through the rise of the modern period. This objective will be obtained through the reading, comprehension, and discussion of primary texts from the period. Through these methods students will gain an understanding of the significant concepts and ideas in the history of pre-modern western political thought.

Required Reading:
There is one book required for this class. It is available at the University Bookstore and through the usual off campus and internet outlets.

- Peter J. Steinberger. *Readings in Classical Political Thought*. (Hackett Publishing Company).

Assignments, Exams and Grading:
Students will be assessed on the basis of three types of assignments: quizzes, essays and exams.

Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis every Thursday at the beginning of class except for weeks noted in the course calendar. Quizzes will be worth ten points each and consist of general knowledge and true/false questions.

Two essays will be assigned in the class. You will receive a set of questions in class and have one week to complete an essay of no more than 1000 words (approximately 3½

pages of double spaced 12 point font text) on the question of your choice. You are not required to use sources outside the text to complete your essays, but if you do you must properly cite your sources. You must also provide citations for any textbook passage you directly quote. The first essay will be assigned February 14th and due February 21st. The second essay will be assigned April 12th and due April 19th.

The first exam will be given on March 1st. Exam 2 will be given during the final exam period. April 24th, 7:00am- 9:50am. Even though it will be given during the final exam period, Exam 2 will <u>not</u> be cumulative. Format for the exams will be multiple choice and short answer questions.

Final grades will be calculated using the following formula:

Quizzes: 10%
Essay 1: 20%
Essay 2: 20%
Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 25%

The grading scale for final grades is as follows:

A: 89.5% or above
B: 79.5% to 89.4%
C: 69.5% to 79.4%
D: 59.5% to 69.4%
F: 59.4% or below

Final grades are just that, final. I will not reconsider them except in a case where I made a computational error in calculating them (I have taught for several years and have yet to miscalculate a final grade). Please do not email or call me asking for a grade change for another reason, it will not happen.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance at lectures is recommended, but not required. I will not be taking roll. However, you are reminded that you are responsible for lecture material on exams. Further, there is no substitute for attending class and engaging in the course materials for full comprehension. In the past, the students who did best in my courses were the ones who regularly attended class sessions

Makeup Work:
I will not allow missed assignments to be made up without a documented university excused absence. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a scheduled exam please inform me prior to the exam period. If you cannot inform me ahead of time, please inform me within one business day of the scheduled exam period that you need to make up the exam either via phone or email. Date and time of makeup exams will be

determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. I reserve the right to change the format and questions of makeup exams at my discretion.

Webcourses:
A webcourses section has been created for this class and is accessible through the myUCF web portal at my.ucf.edu. This space will be used to post the syllabus, lecture notes, grades, and important class notices.

Class Topics and Reading Assignments:
Students are expected to complete the assigned reading by the beginning of each week. Please note that I reserve the right to change the lecture and readings schedule as necessary to adequately cover all topics. I also reserve the right to add or subtract readings from the course. Any changes to the schedule or assigned readings will be announced in class.

Week 1: Class Introduction, Introduction to the Study of Political Theory
January 10, 12
No Quiz

Week 2: Socrates and Introduction to Plato's *Republic* (Book I)
January 17, 19
Readings: Steinberger, pages 136-81

Week 3: *The Republic*, Books II, III, and IV
January 24, 26
Readings: Steinberger, pages 181-229

Week 4: *The Republic*, Books V, VI, VII
January 31, February 2
Readings: Steinberger, pages 229-76

Week 5: Conclusion of *The Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
February 7, 9
Readings: Steinberger, pages 276-303, 358-77

Week 6: Aristotle's *Politics*
February 14, 16
Readings: Steinberger, pages 377-94

Week 7: Aristole's *Politics*, continued
February 21*, 23
Readings: Steinberger, pages 394-421
* First Essay Due
No Quiz

Week 8: Summary and Review
February 28

Exam 1 March 1st

Spring Break: No Class March 5th-10th

Week 9: Cicero, Augustine
March 13, 15
Readings: Steinberger, pages 443-61, 463-74

Week 10: Augustine, Continued
March 20, 22
Readings: Steinberger, pages 474-504

Week 11: Aquinas
March 27, 29
Readings: Steinberger, pages 508-46

Week 12: Machiavelli, *The Prince*
April 3, 5
Readings: Steinberger, pages 551-91

Week 13: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, *Discourses*
April 10, 12
Readings: Steinberger, pages 551-91, 591-622

Week 14: Machiavelli, *Discourses* continued, Review
April 17, 19*
Readings: Steinberger, pages 591-622
*Second Essay Due
No Quiz

Exam 2: Tuesday, April 24: 7:00am-9:50am

UCF Creed and Academic Honesty
Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

Integrity
I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

Scholarship
I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

Community
I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

Creativity
I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

Excellence
I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Students with Disabilities

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.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes

Third parties may be selling class notes and other materials from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.