Syllabus POT 4305,The State, Society, and the Individual
Spring 2015

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	Spring 2015
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.

Recording Academic Activity Policy

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please **complete the assignments for Module One** by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but **no later than January 16**. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

To submit late work the student will have to obtain the instructor's permission first. 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 be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

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 – Spring 2015

Week/Dates	Topic & Reading	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1 Jan 12	Getting Started Gabriel A. Almond, "Capitalism and Democracy"	Module 1	Jan16, 11 PM
Week 2 Jan 19	Adam Smith *The Wealth of Nations*: Book 1, chapters 1,2,8; Book 5, chapter 1 R.L. Heilbroner, "The Wonderful World of Adam Smith"	Module 2	Jan 23, 11 PM
Week 3 Jan 26	John Stuart Mill *On Liberty* *R.L Heilbroner, pp. 127-135*	Module 3	Jan 30, 11 PM
Week 4 Feb 2	Alexis de Tocqueville *Democracy in America*, Volume 1: chapter 5; Volume 2, part 1: chapters 2,5,10; Part 2: chapters 5,7-10; Part 3: chapter 1; Part 4: chapter 6	Module 4	Feb 6, 11 PM
Week 5 Feb 9	Karl Marx "Estranged Labour" in Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844: Selections. R.L Heilbroner, "The Inexorable System of Karl Marx"	Module 5	Feb 13, 11 PM

Week 6 Feb 16	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	Feb 20, 11 PM
Week 7 Feb 23	Elie Wiesel *Night*	Module 7	Feb 27, 11 PM
Week 8 March 2	H. Marcuse *An Essay on Liberation,* Introduction, chapters 1,3,4	Module 8	March 6, 11 PM
Week 9 March 9	**Spring Break**		
Week 10 March 16	Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	Module 9	March 20, 11 PM
Week 11 March 23	Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem (cont.)	Module 9	March 27, 11 PM
Week 12 March 30	M. Olson *The Logic of Collective Action,* Chapters 1-5	Module 10	April 3, 11 PM
Week 13 April 6	R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation*	Module 11	April 10, 11 PM
Week 14 April 13	R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation* (cont.)	Module 11	April 17, 11 PM
Week 15 April 20	Overview & Final Assignment	Module 12	April 24, 11 PM & May 1, 11 PM

Exam Week April 29-May 5	Final Assignment Due	Module 12	May 1 11 PM

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