Syllabus POT 4305
Fall 2017

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey
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Course Information

Course Name	Democracy, Capitalism, and the Individual
Course ID & Section	POT 4305 – 0W59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2017
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 August 25**. **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; permission will be granted depending on the circumstances that resulted in late submission. The student will have **at most one week** from the assignment's deadline to submit the work. There will be a penalty of one letter grade for all late work (except for cases involving overriding and well documented personal circumstances).

There is **no extra credit** for this course.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Module 1	7%
Modules 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 10	60%
Modules 9, 11	20%
Module 12	13%
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 – Fall 2017

Week/Dates	Topic & Reading	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1 August 21	Module 1: Getting Started Gabriel A. Almond, "Capitalism and Democracy"	Module 1 Quiz & Written assignment & Discussion	Aug 25, 11 PM
Week 2 August 28	Module 2: 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 Quiz & Discussion	Sept 1, 11 PM
Week 3 Sept 5	Module 3: John Stuart Mill *On Liberty* *R.L Heilbroner, pp. 127-135*	Module 3 Quiz & Discussion	Sept 9, 11 PM
Week 4 Sept 11	Module 4: 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 Quiz & One-page assignment	Sept 15, 11 PM
Week 5 Sept 18	Module 5: Karl Marx "Estranged Labour" in Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844: Selections. R.L Heilbroner, "The Inexorable System of Karl Marx"	Module 5 Quiz & Discussion	Sept 22, 11 PM

Week 6 Sept 25	Module 6: 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 Quiz & Two-page assignment	Sept 29, 11 PM
Week 7 Oct 2	Module 7: Elie Wiesel *Night*	Module 7 Discussion	Oct 6, 11 PM
Week 8 Oct 9	Module 8: H. Marcuse *An Essay on Liberation,* Introduction, chapters 1,3,4	Module 8 Quiz & Discussion	Oct 13, 11 PM
Week 9 Oct 16	Module 9: Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	Module 9 Exercise (short answers to questions)	Oct 20, 11 PM
Week 11 Oct 23	Module 9 (cont.): Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	Module 9 Quiz & Discussion	Oct 27, 11 PM
Week 12 Oct 30	Module 10: M. Olson *The Logic of Collective Action,* Chapters 1-5	Module 10 Quiz & Discussion	Nov 3, 11 PM
Week 13 Nov 6	Module 11: R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation*	Module 11 Quiz	Nov 11, 11 PM
Week 14 Nov 13	Module 11 (cont.): R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation*	Module 11 Two-page assignment	Nov 17, 11 PM
Week 15 Nov 20	Thanksgiving		

Week 16 Nov 27	Module 12: Overview & Final Assignment	Module 12 One-page assignment/ Discussion	Dec 1, 11 PM & Dec 8, 11 PM
Exam Week Dec 4-Dec 9	Final Assignment Due	Module 12	Dec 8, 11 PM

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