POT 6007-0001
Seminar in Political Theory
Department of Political Science
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Dr. Daniel Marien	Term:	Spring 2018
Office:	Room HPH 305N	Class Meeting Time	Mon. 6:00-8:50 PM
Phone:	407-823-0012	Class Location	VAB 109
E-Mail:	Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu		

I. Office Hours and Locations

OFFICE HOURS From 1/8 until 4/24 2018	OFFICE LOCATION	OFFICE PHONE NUMBER
Mondays 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	UCF Orlando Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012
Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 PM (Not available during dept. meeting, i.e. every other Tuesday b/w 3:00 and 4:00 PM.)	UCF Orlando Philips Hall, room 302N	407-823-0012

Note: Email me to make an appointment at other times if you cannot come at the times and places listed above. Instructor email contact: Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu or course email. Expect an answer within 24 hours. If you plan to visit me during office hours, it is suggested (not required, simply suggested) that you email your intention ahead of time. Advanced notice helps me selecting who I see first. Phoning during office hours can also be an effective way to deal with various issues. Phoning outside of office hours will not be effective.

II. Course Overview

This seminar pursues two large and parallel goals. First, it introduces participants to contemporary academic debates about the nature and contours of social justice. Second, it probes the ways in which human beings respond to ethical issues such as social justice.

Under the first theme, the course will be divided between a focus on justice issues within a world of presumed autonomous states and justice issues in a world of interdependent states. Our discussion of justice issues in autonomous states will connect with traditional approaches: utilitarianism; libertarianism (Nozick); egalitarian liberalism (Rawls and Dworkin); Marxism and feminism.

Our discussion of justice in an interdependent world will focus on newer perspectives about security, global environmental integrity, fair trade and global governance.

Under the second theme, we will explore the psychology of moral debates, the various sensibilities involved in judging ethical issues, and ways to improve understanding between people of different views.

The course structure fosters the development of academic skills. We will debate a common set of readings in a seminar format. Each student will also write and orally present an evaluation of one major book of his/her choice in a format replicating an academic conference setting.

III. Course Goals

1. During this course, students will become familiar at an introductory level with the arguments and assumptions structuring academic debates in contemporary political philosophy on these different themes or approaches to justice: utilitarianism; egalitarian liberalism; libertarianism; feminism.
2. During this course, students will become familiar with a range of ethical issues raised by globalization: global environmental degradation, trade and international governance.
3. During this course, students will explore the psychology of moral debates, the various sensibilities involved in judging ethical issues, and ways to improve understanding between people of different views.
4. During this course, students will learn to write an effective academic book review or compose an effective essay developing an argument related to a specific question related to justice.

5. During this course students will learn to orally present and defend an argument in both the context of seminar leadership and oral presentation of one's own book review or essay.

IV. Course Material

Michael Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-374-53250-5.

Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction.* Oxford University Press, Second Edition, 2002. ISBN: 978-0198782742.

Peter Singer, *One World Now: The Ethics of Globalization*. Yale University Press; Revised edition, 2016. ISBN: 978-0300196054.

Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion.* New York, Pantheon Books, 2012. ISBN: 978-0307455772.

V. Assessments

WHAT	WHEN	WORTH
WEEKLY POSTS Answering the questions posted in Webcourses.	Submitted weekly, on the Sunday night preceding the coming Monday seminar.	40 points
SEMINAR LEADERSHIP (Oral summary of the main points of the assigned readings and articulation of a thoughtful question or challenge.)	Students take turn to introduce segment of assigned readings.	20 points
ORAL DEFENSE Presentation of a book review or essay making an argument about a specific question.	April 23 or April 30	10 points
RESEARCH REPORT In the form of a book review or research essay making an argument about a specific question.	Three days after your oral presentation	30 points

Weekly Posts

A written text (500 to 800 words) summarizing and evaluating the week's reading. Students post their entries in a the Weekly Discussion Board in Webcourses by the

Sunday evening preceding the Monday evening the seminar meeting. Post will be scored for content (mostly) and for writing (somewhat).

Seminar Leadership

A brief oral presentation (10 minutes) in which the seminar leader summarizes the main points of the assigned readings, make connections and/or contrast with previous readings and articulate a thoughtful question or challenge. The main purpose of the seminar leadership is to launch the group's discussion.

Oral Presentation of Book Review/Essay

Students orally present the main elements of their book review or essay for no more than 20 minutes followed by a question and answer session. Brevity, clarity of presentation, coherence of structure and ability to effectively address questions and objections from the audience are key features of good presentations.

Book Review or Essay

A text of 2,500 to 4,000 words either reviewing a relevant book (instructor's acceptance required) or building an argument in answer to a specific question. The written book review is submitted electronically to the instructor no later than two days after the student's oral presentation. The written text is expected to address the main objections or remarks made to the students during the oral presentation.

VI. Course Credits and Grading Scale

3 credits

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-

Grading Scale (%)	
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0 - 59	F

VII. Schedule of Meetings and Readings

Week 1, Jan 8: Introduction

Week 2, Jan 15: UCF Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr.

Week 3, Jan 22: Sandel, chapters 1-4
Haidt, chapters 1-2

Week 4, Jan 29: Sandel, chapters 5-6; 8
Haidt, chapters 3-4

Week 5, Feb 5: Sandel, chapters 9-10
Haidt, chapters 5-6

Week 6, Feb 12: Kymlicka, Preface, Introduction, chapter 3 Liberal Equality

Rawls:
Dworkin:
Politics of Liberal Equality:

Week 7, Feb 19: Milton and Rose Friedman, Free to Choose, ch. 1 and ch. 5.
Kymlicka, chapter 4 Libertarianism

Week 8, Feb 26: Kymlicka, chapter 5 Marxism
Haidt, chapter 7

Week 9, Mar 5: Kymlicka, chapter 9 Feminism (pp. 377-98 only)
Haidt, chapter 8

Week 10, Mar 12: Spring Break

Week 11, Mar 19: Singer, One World, Preface, chapter 1-2
Haidt, chapter 9

Week 12, Mar 26: Singer, One World, chapters 3-4
Haidt, chapters 10-11

Week 13, Apr 2: Singer, One World, chapters 5-6
Haidt, chapter 12

Week 14, Apr 9: Research Consultation with the instructor

Week 15, Apr 16: Research Consultation with the instructor

Week 16, Apr 23: Oral presentations; followed by final text submission of book review/essay two days later.

Week 17, April 30: Oral presentations; followed by final text submission of book review/essay two days later.

VIII. Grade Dissemination

Grades will be posted on Webcourses@UCF.

IX. Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for missing weekly seminar discussion. One justified absences from these exercises will be excused without point penalty. A penalty of two course points for each additional absence to the seminar discussions will be applied.

Grades of Incomplete
The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

X. Grading Policy

Papers are graded individually (unless a pair of students elects to write a common paper). A grading matrix for the research report is distributed in due time.

XI. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Use my email to communicate with me: Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu. Allow up to 48 hours for a response. Repeat message if you haven't received a response within 48 hours.

XII. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access:
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.

Academic Conduct Policy:
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a failing grade for the entire course and can also result in expulsion from the University.

Turinitin.com:
In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. The instructor submits your text to Turnitin at his discretion. Students found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the entire course.