POT 4025
Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Political Philosophy
Spring 2024
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00-1:20
Health Sciences I, Room 107

Instructor: Nathan Ilderton
Office: 305A Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30am-11:00am; Thursday 2:00-5:00pm, 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.

- Plato, *Republic*. Translated by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company.

All other readings will be made available via webcourses. This will either be links to free sources on the internet, or selections uploaded by the instructor.

Suggested Reading:
I suggest these books as resources to help you during the course. They are not required for purchase. They are available for purchase online, but have <u>not</u> been ordered by the bookstore.

- Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How To Read a Book* (Touchstone Press)
- Edward Bryan Portis, *Reconstructing the Classics* (CQ Press)

Assignments, Exams and Grading:

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

Quizzes:
Eight quizzes will be given during the semester. They will be administered at the beginning of the class period and will take place on the Tuesday of the week they are scheduled in the course calendar unless I announce otherwise. They will cover the previous week's material. I will not give makeup quizzes to late arrivals or for unexcused absences. The only way to prepare for them is to stay current with the reading and attend class. Each student will have their lowest quiz grade dropped; therefore you can miss one quiz without penalty.

Essays:
Two essays will be assigned in the class. A set of questions will be posted in webcourses. You will have two weeks 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. Papers will be uploaded in the form of an accessible Word document to the classes' webcourses page. Due dates are located in the course calendar.

In this course we may 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. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit http://www.turnitin.com.

Exams:
The first exam will be given on Monday, March 4th. Exam 2 will be given during the final exam period, April 25th, 10:00am-12:50pm. Exam 2 will not 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%
First Exam: 30%
Second Exam: 30%
Essays: 30%

The grading scale for final grades is as follows:

Letter Grade	**Points**
A	93.5 - 100

A-	89.5 - 93.4
B+	86.5 - 89.4
B	83.5 - 86.4
B-	79.5 - 83.4
C+	76.5 - 79.4
C	73.5 - 76.4
C-	69.5 - 73.4
D+	66.5 - 69.4
D	63.5 - 66.4
D-	59.5 - 63.4
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 and that a portion of your grade will come from in class quizzes. 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 the course were the ones who regularly attended class sessions.

Student Engagement and Financial Aid
As of Fall 2014, all faculty 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 syllabus quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

The syllabus quiz is a five question multiple choice quiz and can be found on the course's webcourses site under the "Quizzes" tab. The only purpose of the syllabus quiz is to satisfy the financial aid requirement for this class. It will not be included in the calculation of your final grade.

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 9th, 11th

Week 2: Socrates and Plato's Dialogues
January 16th, 18th
Readings: *Euthyphro, The Apology, The Crito*

Week 3: Plato's Republic
January 23rd, 25th
Readings: *The Republic*, Books I, II, III, and IV
Quiz

Week 4: Plato's Republic
January 30th, February 1st
Readings: *The Republic*, Books V, VI, VII, VIII
Quiz

Week 5: Conclusion of *The Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
February 6th, 8th
Readings: Selections from *The Ethics*

Week 6: Aristotle's *Politics*
February 13th, 15th
Readings: Selections from *Politics*
Quiz

Week 7: Aristotle's *Politics*
February 20th, 22nd
Readings: Selections from *Politics*

Week 8: Cicero
February 27th, 29th

Readings: Selections from "On the Republic"
Quiz

Exam 1: Tuesday, March 5th

Week 9: Augustine
March 7th
Readings: Selections from *City of God*
Essay 1 Due: 5:00pm Friday, March 8th via webcourses.

Week 10: Augustine
March 12th, 14th
Readings: Steinberger, pages 463-504

Spring Break, March 18th through 22nd

Week 11: Aquinas
March 26th, 28th
Readings: Selections from *Summa Theologica*
Quiz

Week 12: The Protestant Reformers and Christine de Pizan
April 2nd, 4th
Readings: Martin Luther, "On Temporal Authority"
John Calvin, "On Civil Government." From *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
Christine de Pizan, Selections from *The Book of the City of Ladies*
Quiz

Week 13: Machiavelli
April 9th, 11th
Readings: *The Prince*
Quiz

Week 14: Machiavelli
April 16th, 18th
Readings: Selections from *Discourses on Livy*
Quiz
Essay 2 Due: 5:00pm Friday, April 19th via webcourses.

Exam 2: Thursday, April 25th, 10:00am-12:50pm

Academic Integrity:
Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized

by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Course Accessibility Statement:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and

reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement:
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <https://centralflorida-prod.modolabs.net/student/safety/index>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Deployed Active Duty Military Students:
Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious Observances:
Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>

Title IX Policy:
Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or

assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.