POT 4305 Democracy, Capitalism, and the Individual (19991)
Spring 2024

Instructor and GTA Contact

Instructor	Dr. Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey
SPSIA Office	Phillips Hall 302
Office Hours	Wednesday 1:00-2:00 PM (via email, zoom, phone, or FTF). Thursday 12:30-4:00 PM (via email, zoom or phone);or by appointment. Please contact me to set a time for a meeting during office hours. If these office hours are not convenient for you we can set an appointment outside office hours.
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GTA	
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Course Information

Course Name	Democracy, Capitalism, and the Individual
Course ID & Section	POT 4305 – 0W60
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2024
Location	Web
Prerequisites	POS 2041

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 and Student Learning Outcomes

The course objectives and learning outcomes of *Democracy, Capitalism, and the Individual* (POT 4305) aim at meeting criteria outlined by the Department of Political Science Academic Learning Compacts:
https://oeas.ucf.edu/doc/cos/alc_cos_political_science_ba.pdf

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 mechanisms* of democracy and capitalism
- Develop a better understanding of the implications of the institutions of democracy and capitalism for the individual
- Develop a better understanding of the role of the individual in a democratic society and capitalist economy
- 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 (9780684862149)
- J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, Hackett Publishing Company Inc. (9780915144433)
- Herbert Marcuse, *An Essay on Liberation*, Beacon Press (9780807005958)
- Ellie Wiesel, *Night*, Random House Publishing Group (9780553272536)
- M. Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, Harvard University Press (9780674537514)
- R. Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Basic Books (9780465005642)

The remaining readings will be found either on the web (see Links in Course Content) or/and in the Modules. Additional course materials pertaining to course assignments may be distributed to class via the modules.

Weekly Assignments The assignments are weekly and include quizzes, discussions, and writing assignments; they are designed to test your knowledge and understanding of the module material. The content of each module including description of assignments will be available on Friday of each week; you will have a week to submit your assignments (assignments are due by 11:00 PM on the following Friday). After a discussion or writing assignment closes, (1) comments on your assignment, (2) an assignment grade and a total grade for the module, (3) a class announcement with general grading comments, will be released **by Friday, *at most* ten business days following the assignment's due date**. More details to follow in the weekly module overviews.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

To submit late work the student will have to obtain the instructor's permission first; requests for late assignment submissions should be sent to the instructor via email prior to the assignment deadline, or within seventy-two hours following the assignment deadline. 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 circumstances).

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up; no penalty will be applied. Other overriding circumstances include own or family medical emergencies, religious holidays, severe weather conditions, military obligations, or legal obligations (i.e. jury duty). Pertinent, official documentation will be required if you plan on requesting to make up a quiz or assignment due to such circumstances.

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

Evaluation and Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Module 1	5%
Modules 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 10	70%
Modules 9, 11	15%
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

Attendance Policy

This course is web-based, fully online and considered a "W" course. Students are expected to fully participate in all online activities and to complete all assignments by the due dates.

Federal Financial Aid Requirement: Recording Academic Activity Policy

UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. All faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their aid.

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 Friday, January 12**. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

Zoom Virtual Office Hours

This course may use Zoom for meetings during office hours (or by appointment).

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the UCF Zoom Guides at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/>. You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet).

Please contact Webcourses@UCF Support at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/> if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.

Professionalism and Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner. Profanity, or any other offensive behavior will not be tolerated. Repeated violations of professionalism will result in a reduction in course grade.

If there is anything in the syllabus that is unclear, it is up to the student to contact the professor for clarification. Also, it is the student's responsibility to be informed of any class announcements posted in class Announcements or distributed via webmail.

Academic Honesty

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's 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.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity.
For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices."

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*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary, respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, click here.

Covid

There are presently no required COVID-related syllabus policies at the university level. For guidance regarding COVID please visit the official CDC webpage (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html). The COVID line at UCF no longer exists, however Student Health Services has resumed normal operations for providing care to students. This care includes providing COVID testing and care for students, and vaccination for everyone.

Student Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course 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). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be 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.

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to ucf.edu and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.” Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (good ones include McAfee or Norton).

Also, **back up your files**: Hard drives do crash and it is really inconvenient when they do. However, this is not a valid excuse for failing to get your work in on time.

E-mail Protocols

E-mail will be an integral part of this course. Make sure you: Check your e-mail at least once every 48 hours during regular business hours (more often is better).

Be patient. Don’t expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, 48 hours is considered a reasonable amount of time to receive a reply. Please note that your professor only checks and answers to e-mails during regular business hours.

In the “Subject” heading include the course number and your last name.

Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important, but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.

Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.

Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered “shouting.” Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).

Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Sign your e-mail messages.

Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail.

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.

Technical Assistance

For specific problems in any of the areas below or for further information go to the corresponding link for assistance.

UCF Home Page will help find UCF resources.

UCF Service Desk – You can also call the Service Desk at 407-823-5117.

Learning Online This site provides information on study skills for distance learners, the library and the writing center.

Buying a new computer or upgrading your current equipment – http://www.cstore.ucf.edu/

Technical Discussion Topic: If you have technical questions and/or problems, please post a message to the Technical Discussion Topic. I encourage members of the class who are technically proficient to also monitor this discussion topic and assist your classmates.

If your equipment problems prevent you from using e-mail from home, there are many computer labs on campus and virtually every public library offers Internet access.

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.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact me to discuss your circumstances.

Make-up Assignments For Authorized Events or Co-Curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

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>.

POT 4305.0W60 Class Schedule Spring 2024

Week of	Topic & Reading	Assignments	Due Dates
January 8	Module 1: Getting Started Gabriel A. Almond, “Capitalism and Democracy”	**Module 1** Quiz & Writing assignment & Discussion	January 12, 11 PM
January 15	Module 2: Adam Smith *The Wealth of Nations*, Book 1: chapters 1,2,4,8; Book 5: chapter 1, part 3, article II R.L. Heilbroner, “The Wonderful World of Adam Smith”	**Module 2** Quiz & Discussion	January 19, 11 PM
January 22	Module 3: John Stuart Mill *On Liberty* *R.L Heilbroner, pp. 127-135*	**Module 3** Quiz & Discussion	January 26, 11 PM
January 29	Module 4: Alexis de Tocqueville *Democracy in America*, VOLUME 1: Part I, Chapter 5; Part II, Chapters 7 & 8. VOLUME 2, Part I: Chapters 2,5,10; Part 2: Chapters 2,5,7-11,20; Part 3: Chapter 1; Part 4: Chapter 6	**Module 4** Quiz & One-page assignment	February 2, 11 PM
February 5	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	February 9, 11 PM

February 12	Module 6: J.M. Keynes “The End of Laissez-Faire” in Essays in Persuasion, volume 4, pp. 272-294. “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	February 16, 11 PM
February 19	Module 7: Elie Wiesel *Night*	**Module 7** Discussion	February 23, 11 PM
February 26	Module 8: H. Marcuse *An Essay on Liberation,* Introduction, chapters 1,3,4	**Module 8** Quiz & Discussion	March 1, 11 PM
March 4	Module 9: Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	**Module 9** Quiz	March 8, 11 PM
March 11	Module 9 (cont.): Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem	**Module 9 (cont.)** Discussion	March 15, 11 PM
March 25	Module 10: M. Olson *The Logic of Collective Action,* Chapters 1-5	**Module 10** Quiz & Discussion	March 29, 11 PM
April 1	Module 11: R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation*	**Module 11** Quiz	April 5, 11 PM
April 8	Module 11 (cont.): R. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation*	**Module 11 (cont.)** One-page assignment	April 12, 11 PM

April 15	Module 12: Final Assignment	**Module 12** One-page assignment/	April 19, 11 PM
April 22	Module 12 (cont.)	**Module 12** Discussion	April 26, 11 PM

Note: Be informed and routinely check class announcements.