COURSE OUTLINE

POT 6007 0001 (12874)
Graduate Seminar in Political Theory
Spring 2024

School of Politics, Security and International Affairs
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Marien. Contact via Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu or course email.

Class time: Tuesdays, 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm.
Class location: HS1 room 107.

INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS TBA

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1pm.

Or by special appointments setup via email. I am flexible. Do not skip class or work to make an appointment for consultation. Appointments on weekends are possible as well. If you cannot show up at an appointment, please email me ahead of time to reschedule.

I. Course Description

This seminar introduces participants to contemporary normative and empirical debates about equality, inequality, and social justice. From a normative standpoint, we are particularly interested in examining under what conditions various forms and extent of inequalities in material conditions and life-chances are ethically justifiable. The normative discussion is accompanied by a parallel social scientific description of the origins, forms, causes, and consequences of social inequalities.

The course structure fosters the development of oral communication and critical thinking skills. We will debate a common set of readings in a seminar format. The course concludes with the composition of a capstone essay discussing the extent to which American society is just or unjust.

II. Books to Buy and Other Materials We Will Consult

You will need to have ready access to these three books:

Michael Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, ISBN: 978-0374532505.

Milton and Rose Friedman, *Free to Choose: A Personal Statement*. Mariner Book, 1990.

Michael Schwalbe, *Rigging the Game: How Inequality is Reproduced in Everyday Life*. Oxford University Press, second edition, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-19-021640-5.

We also will read selections from:

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, Utopia*.

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*.

Will Kymlicka, *Introduction to Contemporary Political Philosophy*.

This and other materials will be made available at the library reserve.

III. Basic Course Expectations

Students are expected to: (1) always have a working connection to the internet; (2) to promptly procure the textbooks; (3) to attend class regularly and refrain from engaging in distracting behavior (cell phone, etc.); (4) take quizzes and submit assignments in due time in normal circumstances; (5) to respect the rules of academic honesty, in particular never to present text not their own as their own wording. (6) In most cases to paraphrase contents from the textbook rather than use direct quotes. (7) Avoid using Artificial Intelligence in the composition of submissions.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

LO-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 themes and theories of justice: utilitarianism (Bentham); libertarianism (Friedman and Nozick); egalitarian liberalism (Rawls); socialism (Piketty); gender issues; racial issues.

LO-2: During this course, students will become familiar with empirical trends in social inequality as to degrees, forms, causes and consequences.

LO-3: During this course, students will learn to write an effective capstone essay demonstrating mastery of conflicting arguments about the degree to which American society can be described as just or unjust.

V. Assessment Overview

Assessment Overview

WHAT Description	WHEN Deadlines	WORTH Full Course Points	WHY Purpose
Before Course Perception of Social (in)-Equality and Social Justice	**Friday 1/12, 11:59pm** Upload a file in Webcourses.	**1**	**QUICK MONEY** To free up your financial aid and to prepare your After-Course Statement due at the end of the semester.
Quizzes In Webcourses	**Monday Evenings**	**43**	**UNDERSTANDING** To verify mastery of assigned materials with multiple choice questions.
Part A Questions In Webcourses	**Monday Evenings**	**10**	Articulate a personal response to the readings.
Part B Discussion Posts In Yellow Dig	**Monday Evenings**	**20**	**EVALUATION**
FIRST DRAFT Capstone Essay In 2,500 to 4,000 words	**Wednesday 4/15 at 11:58 PM**	**10**	**APPROPRIATING COURSE CONTENTS FOR ONESELF** To provide the opportunity to

			research a specific question particularly relevant to you.
FINAL PAPER Capstone Essay In 2,500 to 4,000 words	**Monday 4/29 at 11:58 PM**	**15**	**APPROPRIATING COURSE CONTENTS FOR ONESELF** To provide the opportunity to research a specific question particularly relevant to you.
After Course Perception of Social (in-)Equality and Social Justice	**Tuesday 4/30 Upload a file in Webcourses.**	**1**	**SYNTHESIS** To foster reflection on what was learned and to communicate this to the instructor.
TOTAL		**100**	See the Grading Scale below.

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
70-76	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

VII. Course Prerequisites

VIII. Course Credits

3 credits

IX. Course Schedule

Updates may adjust the schedule below. Updates would be stated in the description of the new module (Part A in Webcourses).

Week 1: Meeting on Tuesday 1/9: Introduction

No Deadlines

Week 2: Meeting on Tuesday 1/16

Deadlines Monday 1/15
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 1/15 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 1/15 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Sandel, chapters 1-2
Milton and Rose Friedman, chapter 1

Week 3: Meeting on Tuesday 1/23

Deadlines Monday 1/22
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 1/22 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 1/22 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Milton and Rose Friedman, chapter 5 and pp. 64-69.
Sandel, chapter 3: Nozick.
Nozick, Preface and chapter 7 of *Anarchy, State, Utopia*.

Week 4: Meeting on Tuesday 1/30

Deadlines Monday 1/29
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 1/29 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 1/29 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Kymlicka, pp. 102-127 (topic: Nozick).
Schwalbe, introduction and chapter 1.

Week 5: Meeting on Tuesday 2/6

Deadlines Monday 2/5
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 2/5 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 2/5 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Schwalbe, chapters 2-3-4.

Week 6: Meeting on 2/13

Deadlines Monday 2/12
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 2/12 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 2/12 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Schwalbe, chapters 5-6-7.

Week 7: Meeting on 2/20

Deadlines Monday 2/19
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 2/19 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 2/19 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Schwalbe, chapter 8.
PIKETTY_Interview_NYT_2022_04_01
Piketty, chapters 6.

Week 8: Meeting on 2/27

Deadlines Monday 2/26
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 2/26 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 2/26 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:

Sandel, chapter 6: Rawls
Rawls, selections from *A Theory of Justice.*

Week 9: Meeting on Tuesday 3/5

Deadlines Monday 3/4
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 3/4 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 3/4 at 11:58 pm in Yellowdig.

Read:
Freeman, *Rawls*, "Economic Institutions."
Piketty, chapter 7.

Week 10: Meeting on Tuesday 3/12

Deadlines (after we return from Spring Break)
Quiz and Part A Post: Monday 3/11 at 11:58 pm in Webcourses.
Part B Posts: Monday 3/11 at 11:58 pm in Packback.

Read:
Kymlicka, chapter 9, Feminism, pp. 387-386.
Coontz, "Why Gender Equality Stalled."
Miller, "As Women Take Over a Male Dominated Filed, The Pay Drops."

Week 11: Spring Break

Week 12: Meeting on Tuesday 3/26: Capstone Essay

No formal deadline for this week.
Bring your ideas for a capstone essay.

Week 13: Meeting on Tuesday 4/2: Capstone Essay

No formal deadline for this week.
Discussion of students' work on their essay.

Week 14: Meeting on Tuesday 4/9:First Draft of Essay

Deadline: Monday 4/15
Submit your first draft and discuss it.

Week 15: Meeting on Tuesday 4/16: Capstone Essay

No formal deadline

Discussion of students' further work on their essay.

Week 16: No Meeting: Submission of Final Capstone Essay

Deadline: Monday 4/29

Submit your final essay in Webcourses. There is no meeting this week.

Deadline: Tuesday 4/30

After Course Perception of Social (in-) Equality and Social Justice by Tuesday 4/30 11:58 pm in Webcourses.

X. Policy Statements

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Make-up Exams and Assignments
Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for university-sponsored events, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. Please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

Can't make the deadline for other reasons than those listed above? Contact the instructor with an explanation, a supporting document, and a request for a specific deadline extension. You may receive an extension. Note that my flexibility on deadlines vanishes with the approach of the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity
Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *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.
- *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.
- *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.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *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.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.
- ***Marien's addition to UCF policy:*** the listing of works cited but not materially used in a post or essay also constitutes a breach of academic honesty. It misrepresents the depth of research done.

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, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

Turinitin.com:

In this course the instructor 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. The instructor submits your texts to Turnitin at his discretion. Students found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the entire course and may incur additional penalties.

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 disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (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

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of the 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. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- 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, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html (click on link from menu on left).

- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert," fill out the information, including your 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.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video. You CAN Survive an Active Shooter

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 your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

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.

Title IX

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/.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's

complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – http://oie.ucf.edu/ & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office