# POT 4314 - CONTEMPORARY DEMOCRATIC THEORY

**Section:** 0001

*College of Sciences*

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

## Course Information

**Term:** Fall 2024
**Class Meeting Days:** TR
**Class Meeting Time:** 16:30 - 17:50
**Class Meeting Location:** CB1 O103
**Modality:** P
**Credit Hours:** 3.00

## Instructor Information

Paul Labedz
**Title:** Professor of Political Science
**Office Location:** CB1-Faculty Teaching and Learning Center
**Office Hours:**
TBA
**Phone:** 4075822227
**Email:** Paul.Labedz@ucf.edu

## Course Description

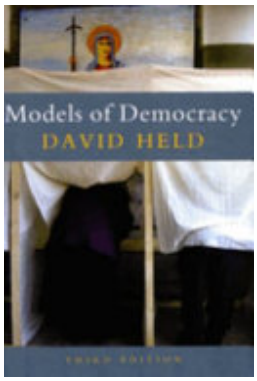
POT 4314 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Contemporary Democratic Theory: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Study of democratic theories, emphasizing liberal democracy and its critics, elitist theories, participatory democracy, citizen participation, and relevance of empirical research to democratic theory. Occasional.

## Student Learning Outcomes

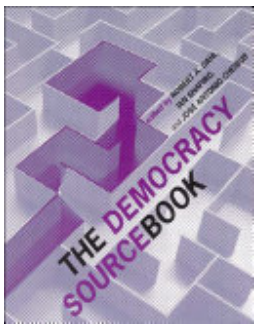
After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehension of democratic theories, emphasizing liberal democracy and its critics, elitist theories, participatory democracy, citizen participation, and relevance of empirical research to democratic theory.

## Course Materials and Resources




**Models of Democracy, 3rd Edition**
**ISBN:** 9780804754729
**Authors:** David Held
**Publisher:** Stanford University Press
**Publication Date:** 2006-01-01




**The Democracy Sourcebook**
**ISBN:** 9780262541473
**Authors:** Robert A. Dahl, Ian Shapiro, Jose Antonio Cheibub
**Publisher:** MIT Press
**Publication Date:** 2003-08-15

## Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Three (3) essay-style examinations will be given throughout the semester. The first exam will cover reading and lecture material from part 1 of the course (see course outline below); the second exam will cover reading and lecture material from part 2; the third exam will cover reading and lecture materials from part 3. For an overview of the subjects contained within each of the segments/parts of the course, please consult the course outline below. Each exam is worth a maximum of 50 points. The dates for the exams will be announced in class and via email.

A participation of grade ranging from 0-10 will also be assigned at the end of the academic term.

## Assignment Schedule

| Due Date | Assignment Name | Assignment Type | Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8/23 | Student Data Activity | Assignment | 1 |
| 12/5 | Course syllabus | Assignment | |

## Grading Scale

The overall grade for the course will be based on the student's performance on each of the above assignments. The maximum number of points a student can acquire is 160.

The grading scale is based on the following point distributions: 144-160=A, 128-143=B, 112-142=C, 96-111=D, 0-95= F.

Grades will not be based on a curve and will reflect the quality of the work submitted.

**No extra credit opportunities will be available for this course.**

## Policies for Course Grade

**Makeup Work Policy: formal documentation is required for makeup work.**

**Missed/Late Assignments: formal documentation is required for missed/late assignments.**

**Attendance: class attendance is strongly advised. Formal documentation should be provided for any absence.**

## Course Accessibility

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) (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.

## Academic Integrity

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

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

**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 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.

## 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 Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

## Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty of staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

## 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.

## Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and thee threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

## Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/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 this activity 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.

## Class Schedule

Here is a week-by-week list of topics, examination dates, and associated readings.

**The schedule is subject to change if certain topics prove to require more or less time.**

---

**Part 1: Variants of democracy**

A. Democracy as “process”

Readings: Held, Chapters 1-3, pp.141-157; Dahl, et al., pp. 5-12, 29-39

**Part 2: democracy as “rights, values, Economics & The MODERN Practice of Democracy**

A. Democracy as “rights”

Readings: Dahl, et al., pp. 123-133;

B. Democracy as “values”

Readings: Dahl, et al., pp. 157-190

C. Democracy as “economics”

Readings: Held, Chapter 4, pp. 172-179; Dahl, et al., 436-453

D. The Institutions of Democracy

Readings: Dahl, et al., pp. 191-217, Chapter 5

E. The Electoral Systems of Democracy

Readings: Dahl, et al., Chapter 6

---

**Part 3: The Theoretical Perspectives on Democracy**

A. Pluralism

Readings: Held, pp. 158-169; Dahl, et al., pp. 118-122, 207-216, 364-371

B. Consociational Democracy

Readings: Held, pp.158-172; Dahl, et al., pp. 142-151

C. Rational Choice Theory

Readings: Dahl, et al., pp. 372-380; pp. 393-397

D. Participatory Democracy

Readings: Held, pp. 209-216; Dahl et al., pp. 40-47

E. Deliberative Democracy

Readings: Held, Chapter 9, Dahl, et al., pp. 18-28

---