POT 4025 - Ancient, Medieval and Early Moddern Political Philosophy

Section: 0001

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026
Class Meeting Days: TR
Class Meeting Time: 12:00PM - 01:20PM
Class Meeting Location: BA1 O146
Modality: P
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Steven Smallpage
Title: Associate Professor of Political Science
Office Location: HPH 311e
Office Hours
T/R 1:30-3:00pm; and by appointment
Email: steven.smallpage@ucf.edu

Course Description

POT 4025 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Political Philosophy: PR: ENC 1102. Study of the development of political and social ideas in western thought

from early Greece through the 17th century. Occasional.

Do the reading before class.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand the history of Western political thought from Plato to Locke

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 Course Materials and Resources

The Republic
Authors: Plato
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/55201/pg55201-images.html

Apology
Authors: Plato
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/76464/pg76464-images.html#APOLOGY

Nicomachean Ethics
Authors: Aristotle
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/8438/pg8438-images.html

Politics
Authors: Aristotle
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/6762/pg6762-images.html

City of God
Authors: Augustine
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/45305/pg45305-images.html

Summa Theologica
Authors: Aquinas
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/17897/pg17897-images.html

The Prince
Authors: Machiavelli
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/57037/pg57037-images.html

Leviathan
Authors: Hobbes
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/3207/pg3207-images.html

Second Treatise on Government
Authors: Locke
Online Access: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

The class will consist of multiple in-class reading quizzes, announced throughout the semester (50%) an in-class midterm exam (20%) and an in-class final exam (30%). Attendance is mandatory.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work/Late Assignment Policy

This course is built around in-class assessments, and make-up work is permitted only in rare and extraordinary circumstances that can be applied uniformly to all students. As a general rule, students should expect that formal documentation will be required for any exception, and failure to follow required procedures may result in a request being denied. In-class reading quizzes are not made up; instead, the single lowest quiz score is dropped automatically for all students, which is intended to account for ordinary absences. In cases of documented, extraordinary circumstances involving extended absence, I may, at my discretion, assign an alternative assessment in lieu of a missed quiz, which may differ in format from the original quiz. The midterm and final exams are never waived. A make-up midterm may be permitted only for bona fide, extraordinary circumstances, provided the student notifies me in advance or within 24 hours of the missed exam; any approved make-up will be administered before the next class meeting, typically in the SPSIA office. A make-up final exam may likewise be permitted only for documented, extraordinary circumstances, with the expectation that it will be completed within 24–48 hours of the scheduled exam time; if this is not feasible before grades are due, the matter will be handled in accordance with standard university policies on

Incomplete grades. I reserve the right to deny any request that does not meet these standards.

Attendance

Mandatory. I will record attendance periodically in class. I expect every student to attend class-- it will be very difficult to do well in this class if you do not attend the class sessions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

All quizzes and exams in this course are conducted in class and are intended to assess students' own understanding of the assigned material. The use of artificial intelligence tools or systems in any context where student understanding is being evaluated is strictly prohibited. Any such use constitutes academic dishonesty and will be handled in accordance with university policies on academic misconduct. Students are responsible for ensuring that no unauthorized resources are used during in-class assessments.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to

facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

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

1. 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 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 assessment, 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.
2. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
3. 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 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.
4. 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 and Academic Integrity, 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" designated 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 access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & 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 discrimination by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance via the ONAC website or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line either anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or by 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 arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF's 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 phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND**. When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the 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 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

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Introduction and Cultural Relativism
2	John Locke's Second Treatise on Government
3	John Locke's Second Treatise on Government
4	Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan
5	Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan
6	Machiavelli's Prince

Week	Topic
7	Machiavelli's Prince
8	Aquinas' Summa Theologica
9	Augustine's City of God; Midterm
10	Spring Break
11	Aristotle's Politics
12	Aristotle's Nico. Ethics
13	Plato's Republic
14	Plato's Republic/Apology
15	Review
16	Final Exam (April 30th 10am-12:50pm