

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW COURSE PROPOSAL Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>4/21/25</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____	
Department Political Science		College Honors College <i>(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)</i>		
Prefix POT Number 2002	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i> Lab Code	Type of Course Lecture	Course Title Honors Introduction to Political Theory	
Credits <i>(See Definition of a Credit Hour)</i> 3 Effective Date <i>(TERM & YEAR)</i> Fall 2026	Grading <i>(Select One Option)</i> Regular <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sat/UnSat <input type="radio"/>	Course Description <i>(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)</i> Introduces students to the history of Western political thought from the ancient Greeks to the present. Examines the nature of the state and the relationship between individual and state. Covers topics such as authority, consent, freedom and obligation.		
Prerequisites, with minimum grade* None		Corequisites None	Registration Controls <i>(Major, College, Level)</i> Honors	
<i>*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course</i>				
WAC/Gordon Rule Course <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines .		Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement <i>(Select One Option)</i> Social Science General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines .		
Minimum qualifications to teach course PhD in Political Science or Philosophy				
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Mark Tunick, tunick@fau.edu , 68670		List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course		
Approved by Department Chair <u>Miguel Ángel Vázquez</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Terje Hill</u> College Dean <u>Julia Earles</u> UUPC Chair <u>Korey Sorge</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Meeroff</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____			Date <u>3/25/25</u> <u>3/24/2025</u> <u>3 25 25</u> <u>4/21/25</u> <u>4/21/25</u> _____ _____	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



POT 2002 Honors Introduction to Political Theory

TR 11-12:20

3 credits

Fall 2026

Prof. Mark Tunick

Office: HC 104

Office hours: TR 9:30-11, 12:30-2

Classroom: SR 283

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Course Description

Catalog description: Introduces students to the history of Western political thought from the ancient Greeks to the present. Examines the nature of the state and the relationship between individual and state. Covers topics such as authority, consent, freedom and obligation.

Additional wording for course syllabus: Students will be expected to think critically about the readings and subject matter and to form their own judgments on the issues we address. This course satisfies the Social Sciences Group B General Education requirement.

Instructional Method

This course meets in-person and combines lectures with class discussions.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Statement of why this course is an honors course:

This course is an honors course because it relies on careful study of primary texts of political theory rather than a summary provided by secondary sources; there is a substantial discussion-component to the course to facilitate development of communication skills and ability to engage in respectful, civil discourse on issues the often generate disagreement; and papers and exams require substantial critical thinking skills, and papers require careful attention to proper scholarly citation, to help students prepare for writing the honors thesis.

Statement of why this course is a Social Science-B core course:

POT 2002 is a core social science course at other Florida SUS schools including UF. It covers a broad historical period from the ancient Greeks to post-French Revolution Europe; the classic texts we focus on are regarded as foundational texts of Western civilization; and the course exposes students to fundamental ideas that are building blocks for future study in their chosen area of concentration. The works we read by Aristotle, Plato, Machiavelli, Locke, Hobbes,

Bentham, Kant, Hegel and others are basic foundations for more recent work in disciplines including political science, economics, psychology, and history.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this course is to help students become informed citizens through a rigorous education that promotes the constitutional republic through a careful study of works in the canon of Western political thought that is historically accurate. Students will acquire broad foundational knowledge of the historical background and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this nation's political and legal institutions. Students will sharpen their critical thinking and writing skills and ability to engage in civil and respectful discourse on fundamental political questions.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of important political ideas and issues, and leading thinkers and their historical context.

SLO 2: Students will identify, analyze and evaluate complex political theories such as social contract, utilitarian, rights-based, communitarian, and conservative theories.

SLO 3: Students will apply analytical tools to address and make informed choices about controversial issues, such as the scope of private property rights, who should be a citizen, the scope of governmental powers to regulate, when disobedience may be justified if ever.

Course Evaluation Method

Grading will be based on class participation (10%), quizzes and brief writing assignments (25%); 2 papers of at least 6 pages each (20% each), and a take-home essay-based final exam (25%).

Papers and exam essays will require responding to prompts and providing critical analysis of the assigned texts and construction of an interpretive position and will be graded based on quality of the critical analysis, extent to which relevant texts are drawn on and properly cited, coherence, clarity and conciseness, and grammatical correctness. Substantial feedback will be provided for each writing assignment. Papers turned in late will be penalized. Attendance: As this is a discussion-based class, attendance is crucial. For each unexcused absence beyond 2 you will lose 1.5 points.

Course Grading Scale

The default grading scale is 94-100 (A), 90<94 (A-), 87<90 (B+), 84<87 (B), 80<84 (B-), 77<80 (C+), 74<77 (C), 70<74 (C-), 67<70 (D+), 64<67 (D), 61<64 (D-), <61 (F). I may utilize a curve but only if doing so would yield a higher rather than a lower grade than what the student would earn using the default scale.

Classroom Etiquette Policy

To facilitate class discussion, use of electronic devices is not permitted during class.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when

incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on

personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Policy on use of AI:

Use of AI to brainstorm, outline, draft, or revise any written work for this course, or to aid in taking of quizzes or exams or discussion board posts, is not permitted without explicit prior written approval of the instructor.

Required Texts/Readings

The following texts are required and available for purchase at the bookstore or online and digital editions may be available as well: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Dover: ISBN 9780486272740, \$4 new); John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett: ISBN: 9780915144860, \$10 new); Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett: ISBN 9780872201668, \$10 digital); Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* (Signet Classics, 9780451530998, \$5.95 new). All other readings are available in Canvas.

Course Topical Outline

Schedule of Topics and Readings: The readings listed under each class are to be done prior to that class meeting. Be sure to read the introductory material in Canvas for each class.

Check Canvas for updated schedule of topics and readings.

8/22. Introduction

Reading: 'The Greeks and the Greek Polis' lecture notes in Canvas

8/24. The Greek polis

Rdg: Plato, *Apology*, and *Crito* (25 pages total, medium difficulty).

8/29. Socrates and Plato

Rdg: Plato, *Republic* Bk 1 (16 pages, medium difficulty)

Brief writing assignment on Socrates due.

8/31. Plato's *Republic*; mini writing-workshop

Rdg: Plato, *Republic* Bks 2-4, excerpts (48 pages, medium difficulty)

9/5. Plato's *Republic*

Rdg: Plato, *Republic* Bks 5-10, excerpts (89 pages, medium difficulty)

9/7. Aristotle

Rdg: 'Aristotle' Lecture Notes, in Canvas; Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*: excerpts from Books 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 (29 pages, medium difficulty)

9/12. Aristotle

Rdg: Aristotle, *Politics*: excerpts from Books 1-5, 7-8 (53 pages, medium difficulty)

Paper One Draft Due

9/14. Machiavelli and the Renaissance

Rdg: Machiavelli, *Mandragola* ('The Mandrake Root')(26 pages, easy).

9/19. Machiavelli

Rdg: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (70 pages, easy-medium difficulty)

Recommended: Machiavelli, *Discourses* (excerpts)

9/21. Thomas Hobbes

Rdg: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1660), Introduction and Part One chs 10-14 (19 pages, medium-hard difficulty); 'Hobbes Lecture Notes' in Canvas.

Leviathan Study Questions

9/26. Thomas Hobbes

Rdg: Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Part Two chs 15-21 (33 pages, medium-hard difficulty)

9/28. Thomas Hobbes

Rdg: Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Part Two chs 26-30 (26 pages, medium-hard difficulty)

10/3. The Putney Debates and the English Revolution

Rdg: Putney Debates (1647)(Canvas); and; '**An Agreement of the People**' (online)(13 pages, medium difficulty)

Revision of Paper One due

10/5. John Locke

Rdg: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690), Preface, chapters 1-5 (29 pages, medium difficulty)

10/10. Locke's Constitutional theory

Rdg: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters 6-15 (61 pages, medium difficulty)

For those interested: Tunick, "John Locke and the Right to Bear Arms," *History of Political Thought* 35(1):50-69 (2014), [online](#).

10/12. Locke on the right of rebellion

Rdg: Locke *Second Treatise*, chapters 16-19 (33 pages, medium difficulty)

10/17. Burke and Conservatism

Rdg: 'The French Revolution and Enlightenment' lecture notes, and 'Burke Lecture Notes', in Canvas; Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, [online](#) (1 page, easy); Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (excerpts, 28 pages: easy-medium difficulty); Burke Additional passages (1 page)

For those interested: Complete text of *Reflections* available at [google books](#).

10/19. The Burke-Paine Debate

Rdg: Paine, *Rights of Man* (excerpts)(8 pages, easy-medium difficulty); 'Paine Lecture Notes' in Canvas.

Video clip from 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner'

For those interested: Kazuo Ishiguro, *A Pale View of Hills* (1982), novel that addresses traditions vs new ways

10/24. Jeremy Bentham: against Burke and Paine

Rdg: Bentham, *Anarchical Fallacies* (9 pages, medium difficulty); and *The Book of Fallacies* (16 pages, medium difficulty); 'Bentham' lecture notes.

Paper Two Due

10/26. Bentham's Utilitarianism

Rdg: Bentham, from *Principles of Morals and Legislation* (1789)(19 pages, medium difficulty); 'Bentham's Utilitarianism' lecture notes.

10/31. Dickens' critique of utilitarianism

Rdg: Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* (1854)(300 pages; easy)

Note: Plan to read this novel so you are ready to discuss it during this class and take the quiz at the start of class.

Clips from Preston Surges' film 'Sullivan's Travels' (1941)

11/2. Immanuel Kant: against Bentham's utilitarianism

Rdg: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785)(Preface and First Section, 18 pages, hard difficulty); reread Machiavelli, *The Prince* ch. 18

11/7. Kant's ethical theory

Rdg: Kant, *Groundwork*, Second and Third Sections (44 pages); and 'On a Supposed Right to Lie' (5 pages) (49 pages, hard difficulty)

11/9. G.W.F. Hegel: against Burkean conservatism, utilitarianism, and Kant

Reading: Hegel, "Reason in History" (Introduction to *Philosophy of History*), excerpts; and Hegel, *Philosophy of Right* Preface, excerpts (pp. 1-8); and 'Hegel' lecture notes in Canvas. (41 pages, hard difficulty)

11/14. Hegel's conception of freedom

Rdg: *Philosophy of Right* (1821), Introduction, excerpts (pp. 8-14, hard difficulty); and 'Hegel's Conception of Freedom' lecture notes in Canvas.

11/16. Hegel's theory of morality, family, and state

Rdg: *Philosophy of Right* Excerpts (pp. 14-27, hard difficulty)

11/21. Marx and the Young Hegelians

Rdg: Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (1844), excerpts (5 pages, medium-hard difficulty); *German Ideology* (1845), excerpts (17 pages, hard difficulty); *Communist Manifesto* (1848), excerpts (17 pages, easy-medium difficulty)(39 pages total)

11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28. Marx's critique of capitalism

Rdg: Marx, *Capital* (1867): excerpts (27 pages, medium difficulty).

11/30. Review and Wrap-up

12/7: Take-home Final Exam due at 2pm