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**Semester:** Summer  
**Course Prefix:** CGCL

**Year:** 2025  
**Course and Section #:** 6160-001

**Course Title:** Roots of the American Regime

**Credits:** 2

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## ***Course Description***

*Explores core ancient and modern texts in political philosophy and theology that are foundational to the political thought of the American Founding. Helps students understand the American form of government in comparison with other regimes. Surveys American ideas within the history of political philosophy.*

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## ***Course Attributes***

This course has the following attributes:

- ☐ General Education Requirements
- ☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- ☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- ☐ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- ☒ Elective Core Requirements in Program
- ☐ Open Elective

Other: *Non-degree Seeking Credit for Non-Matriculation*

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## ***Instructor Information***

**Instructor Name:** Professor Ralph Hancock

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## ***Course Materials and Texts***

- Harvey Mansfield, Student's Guide to Political Philosophy
  - All additional readings will be distributed by PDF or online open-source platforms
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## ***Course Requirements***

### **Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy**

UVU recommends two hours of preparation for every hour spent in class. Students with less background in the subject or aiming for excellence may need more time. Since this course is condensed, most out-of-class work should be completed before classes begin in July.

- **Readings:** There will be about 400 pages of readings total. A course schedule will be provided to help prioritize readings. Each day of class is divided into 3 units of reading.
- **Study Questions & Reflections (10 points per unit, 150 points total):** Questions and reflections are writing assignments divided into five submissions to correspond with each class day's 3 unit reading schedule. A day's questions and reflections are submitted together in Canvas, no later than **the evening before** the class discussing its units.

Readings will be guided with study questions. Answer as many as you can as best you can. If a question stumps you, note this in your assignment, and be prepared to ask about it in class.

Reflections are short (150 words minimum) journal entries. These should distill what you have learned from each of the day's three units.

- **Participation (50 points):** Includes attendance, participation in class discussions, and an in-class presentation on one of the reading assignments.
- **In-Class Presentation (50 points):** Students are expected to sign up for one 4-7 minute in-class presentation about one unit of reading. Longer units will be divided until smaller units for presentations. While presentations should summarize the unit's reading materials, they should try to extend beyond summary by examining the main arguments beyond the scholarly work. Extra credit may be earned by signing up for additional presentations—after all students have had an opportunity to sign up for their first presentation. The sign up sheet will be made available on Teams/Sharepoint and linked on Canvas.
- **Final Exam (50 points):** A final exam will be distributed in the form of an essay on the final day of class.

Final grades are rounded to the nearest tenth and assigned the corresponding letter grade:

A = 93-100	B - = 80-82.9	D+ = 67-69.9
A - = 90-92.9	C+ = 77-79.9	D = 63-66.9
B+ = 87-89.9	C = 73-76.9	D - = 60-62.9
B = 83-86.9	C - = 70-72.9	F = 0-59.9

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## Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the lectures below.

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## General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Day 1.

1. *A. Education & Founding--rch (Parts I-III. 30 pp.). (For Education and Founding you can find the questions at the end of each section.)*  
 B. Tocqueville, DA, Author's Introduction, & ... Tyranny of the Majority.. (~15 pp.) *Study Questions for this text and others included in the Selected Readings document are included in the text.*
2. Mansfield, *Students Guide to Political Philosophy. 50 pp.*

3. James Wilson, *Lectures on Law* (**Selections from Parts I, II & III. 30 pp.**) questions on political obligation, survey of ancients and moderns) (**See study and discussion questions posted at the beginning of each chapter**)

#### Day 2.

1. Manent *Why Natural Law?* (**First 4 sections. Pp. 1-8.**) (**See study and discussion questions posted at the beginning of each chapter**) **Recommended reading on contemporary liberalism: John Rawls** (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Section 3 (3.1-3.6) (~10 pp.) <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/#ReaPluPubPolCul>
2. Plato, *Republic*, selections: Book II. Ring of Gyges & city of necessity; the order of the soul and the order of the city; the philosopher, the good, the cave. (**37 pp.**)
3. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*: Happiness; moral responsibility; virtue as mean; contemplation. (**15 pp.**) *Politics*: rational & political animal. moderating partisanship. (**18 pp.**)

#### Day 3

1. Augustine, *City of God* XIX: limits of politics (**18 pp.**)
2. Thomas Aquinas: From *Summa Theologiae*. Man's Last End, Conscience, Law (**80pp.**) (Re. Study Questions: Happily, Thomas Aquinas provides for us the questions he is answering. Use these to guide your reading.)
3. Luther, excerpts presented by rch. (**17 pp.**), Machiavelli, *Prince* (**1-6, 15-18**) & Hobbes: State of Nature, natural law as "theorem of reason," absolute sovereignty (~**30 pp?**)

#### Day 4 Locke (**80 pp. total**)

1. *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*,
2. *2<sup>nd</sup> Treatise of Government*
3. Locke, Letter Concerning Toleration

#### Day 5

1. James Wilson, *Lectures on Law*: natural law, modern liberty & Constitution. Natural law as common sense. Vol One, Chapters VI, VII, X, selections (**26 pp.**)
2. Manent, *Why Natural Law* (last section: "The Disappearance of Political Legitimacy." (Optional: "The Laws of Marriage".) (**6 pp.**)
3. Education & Founding-rch. **Parts IV & V. (20 pp.)**

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### Generative AI

This course requires you to complete assignments that assess your understanding and application of the material. You are expected to do your own work, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as chatbots, text generators, paraphrasers, summarizers, or solvers, is strictly prohibited for any part of your assignments. Using these tools will be considered academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the university's policy. If you have questions about acceptable use of AI tools, please consult the instructor before submitting your work.

## Attendance

Missing two or more hours without a valid excuse will result in a significant grade penalty, ranging from a full letter reduction to failing the course. During class, keep your camera on and stay actively engaged. Avoid multitasking—your focus should be on the discussion.

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## Late Assignments

Assignments must be submitted on time. Extensions are only granted for documented illness or emergency. If a scheduling conflict is known in advance, students should complete the work early. Due dates are listed in the syllabus. Late assignments will lose one full letter grade per 24 hours, starting from the original deadline.

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## Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

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## Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](mailto:DHHservices@uvu.edu)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

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## Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

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Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices. Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Equity and Title IX**

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@uvu.edu) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

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### **Religious Accommodation**

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu). If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.