

UF | Hamilton Center for
Classical and Civic Education
UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

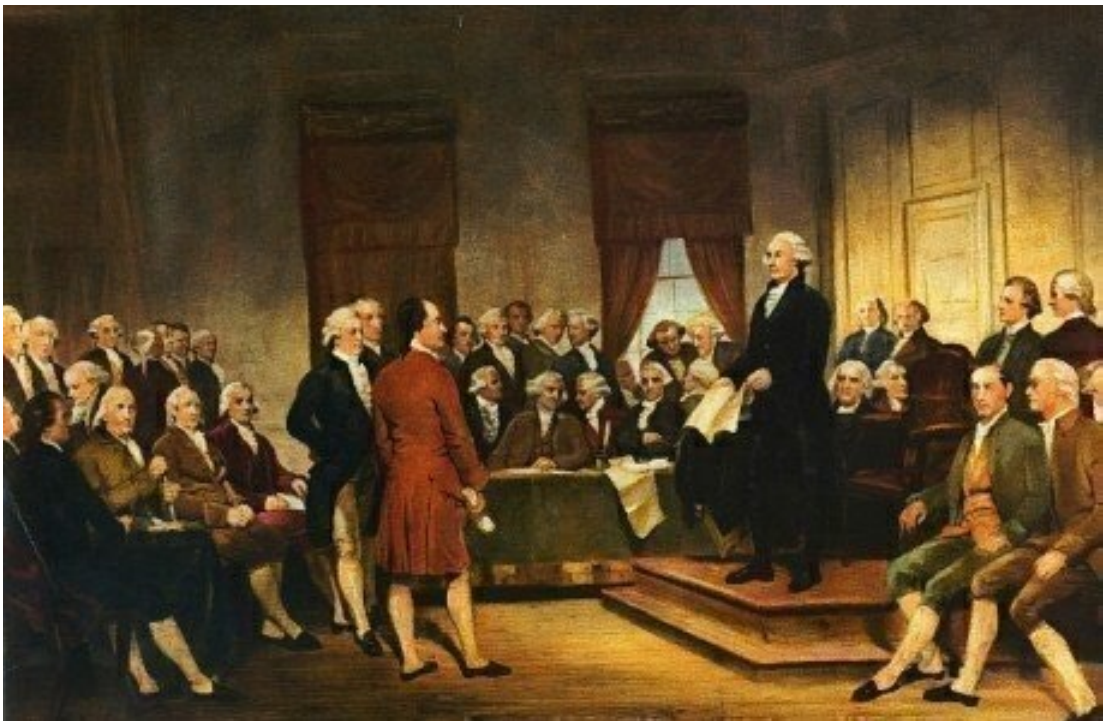


Ambition

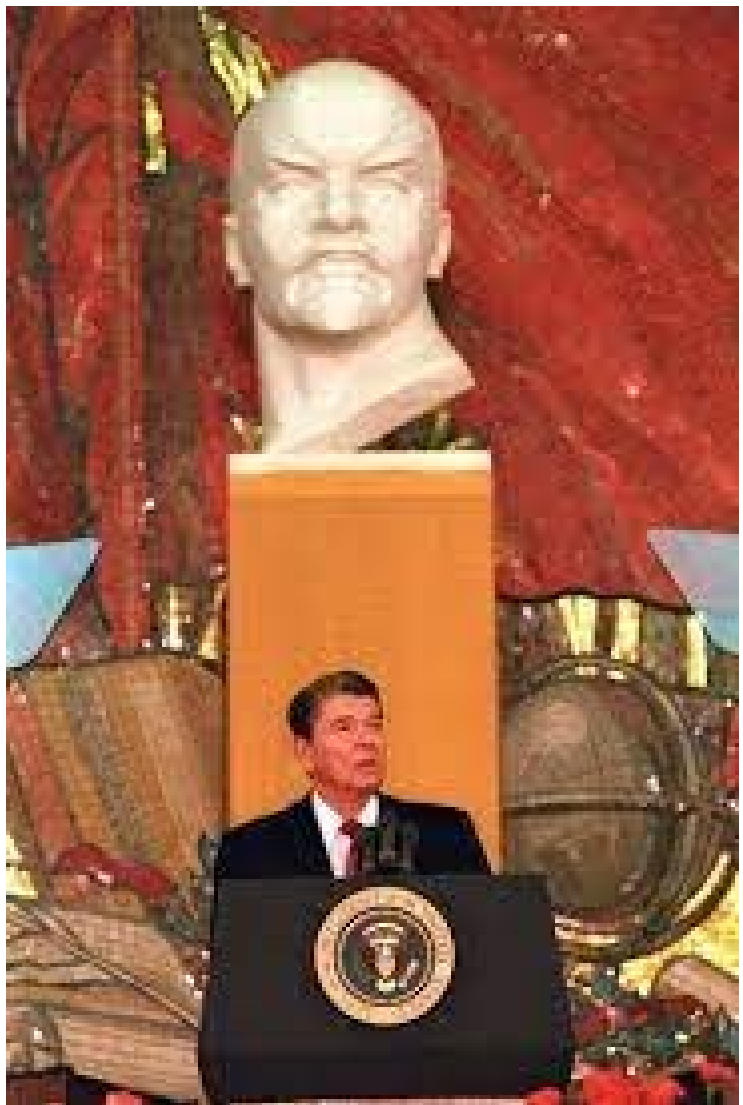
Our Goal: To Make the University of Florida the top university in the nation for research and teaching on Western Civilization



From Athens to
Jerusalem



From Philadelphia, 1787
to Moscow, 1988



Five Hamilton Center Majors



Philosophy,
Politics,
Economics,
and Law
(PPEL)



Great Books and
Ideas



History, Statecraft, and
Strategy



American Foundations,
Institutions, and Law



Science,
Technology, and
Society

Civil Discourse: The Mandate

“The center is responsible for developing curriculum and courses to satisfy the requirement for the competency in civil discourse. Courses developed under this paragraph may be used to satisfy the requirements of s. 1007.25(5).” [1004.6496(3)(a).1–2]

“Establish course competencies and identify outcomes that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government, an understanding of the United States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society.” [s.1007.25(5)]



Civil Discourse: The Options

3455 → number of UF freshmen who need to fulfill the civic literacy requirement

4 options to fulfill civic literacy requirement:

1. AMH X010: Introductory Survey to 1877
2. AMH X020: Introductory Survey since 1877
3. POS X041: American Government
4. "A new course (course prefix and course number to be determined) that would be available statewide and would not be part of the General Education Core and would include the approved course competencies for civic literacy."



AMS 2010: Civil Discourse and the American Political Order

I. General Information

Class Meetings

- Fall 2024
- 100% In-Person, no GTAs, 35 residential students
- MWF Period 4 (10:40 AM–11:30 AM)
- TBA

Instructor

- Will Inboden
- CSE E536
- Tel: 352-294-0087
- winboden@ufl.edu
- Office hours MWF 12:00–1:00 PM and by appointment

Course Description

What is civil discourse? And does the American political order require civil discourse properly to function? This course takes up these questions. In the process, it explores the historical and philosophical roots of equality, toleration and free speech, requisites of civil discourse. Students will also consider the role of free speech and civil discourse, not only in the context of American civic life but within the context of American university life. To do this, students will survey the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government, including by developing an understanding of the U.S. Constitution; by developing a knowledge of the nation's founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance; and by developing an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society, particularly as they relate to freedom of expression. Finally, students will apply the lessons they have learned to particular case studies. The course aims to enable students to engage in civil debates with multiple points of view and to master the ability to synthesize information that informs civic decision-making.