# Course Syllabus

**IDH2930 (Un)Common Reading Program:**

**Dark Money**

**Time: Wednesday 3rd Period (9:35-10:25AM)**

**Location: LIT 119**

**Spring 2017**

**Instructor:**

Anne Donnelly

[adonnelly@aa.ufl.edu](mailto:adonnelly@aa.ufl.edu)

(352) 846-3222

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 am Yon Hall 427 or by appointment

**Course Description:**

What do the Coalition to Protect Patient Rights, Veterans for a Strong America, All Votes Matter, National Right to Work Committee, and the Independent Women’s Voices have in common? They are all part of a well-funded network designed to influence the American political process. This book is a well-researched story of how extremely wealthy libertarians have funneled their money strategically to have an impact on the country’s political landscape. By forming a convoluted and interconnected constellation of organizations, they have become part of academic institutions, statehouses, and Congress. Who is behind this and what does this mean to you? This book applies to all students across disciplines. In addition to the book, both the instructor and students share outside articles/materials that are identified in various media as the semester progresses.

Attendance and participation are expected. Each group leads the discussion of two book sections, and prepares an additional external presentation on a topic of their choice that relates to the general theme of the class. Students are required to prepare three reflection pieces in which they pause to consider what has been discussed and read up to that point.

# Required Book

# Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right by Jane Mayer

* Hardback/Kindle: 380 pages Publisher: Doubleday (2016) ISBN: 978-0-385-53559-5

# Assignments and Grades:

Attendance 15 points

Reflection Papers (2) 20 points (10 points each)

Class Presentations (2) 40 points (20 points each)

External Report 10 points

Final Reflection 15 points

**Total 100 points**

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the due date. You will receive ½ credit for all late assignments up to one week from the due date with the exception of the final report, which will be due at class time on the last day of class. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance.

**Attendance:** Since this is a discussion-based class, attendance and participation is important. Each class meeting counts as one point. Your final grade will be dropped an entire letter grade (e.g. from a “A” to a “B+” for each additional absence after 1.

**Reflection Papers:** These will brief reflections (250 words maximum) that will be related to sections in the book and/or guest speakers.

**Group Class Presentation:** Groups will be assigned to serve as discussion leaders of 2 assigned sections of the book.

**Group External Report:** Each group will be asked to identify an additional example that reflects the issues discussed in the book.

**Final Reflection:** What have you learned from this book? How has it changed how you think about research? 500 words maximum

**Grading Scale:** 93-100 (A); 90-92 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 83-86 (B); 80-82 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 73-76 (C);

70-72 (C-); 67-69 (D+); 60-66 (D); 60-62 (D-); Below 59 (E)

# UF Policies

**Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

**University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

# Course Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings / Assignment Due** |
| 1/4 | Introductions and Course Overview | Introduction |
| 1/11 | Group 1 Discussions | Pgs. 1-38 |
| 1/18 | Group 2 Discussions | Pgs. 39-76 |
| 1/25 | Group 3 Discussions | Pgs. 77-112  **Reflection Paper 1** |
| 2/1 | Group 4 Discussions | Pgs. 112-151 |
| 2/8 | Group 5 Discussions | Pgs. 151-188 |
| 2/15 | Group 1 Discussions | Pgs. 188-227  **Reflection Paper 2** |
| 2/22 | Group 2 Discussions | Pgs. 227-267 |
| 3/1 | Group 3 Discussions | Pgs. 271-307 |
| 3/15 | UR Symposium | Describe 3 posters (200 words total) |
| 3/22 | Group 4 Discussions | Pgs. 307-342 |
| 3/29 | Group 5 Discussion | Pgs. 342-380 |
| 4/5 | Guest Speaker |  |
| 4/12 | External Reports |  |
| 4/19 | External Reports | **Final Reflection Paper** |