

## POT 3302 Political Ideologies

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority, who hear voices in the air, are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler of a few years back” – John Maynard Keynes

This quote from the British economist John Maynard Keynes points to a hard truth: there is no escaping from political ideology for any of us. Bearing this realization in mind, the purpose of this course is twofold. First, and more broadly, it will examine the historical development and contemporary manifestation of a variety of political belief systems, ranging from the far left to the far right. Second, and more specifically, the course aims to confront you with a wide range of ideological alternatives for critical consideration, precisely so that you can understand *what* ideology (or ideologies) you currently believe in, *why* you believe what you do, and *how* best to defend your beliefs (that is, if, at the end of the day, you still think that they are worth defending at all.) Put a bit differently, the purpose of the course is to critically analyze the most salient political ideologies in the world today by reading, thinking, talking and writing in depth about them. As such, it necessarily holds open the possibility that what students believe on the first day of class might not necessarily be what they believe on the last. After all, while ideological commitments cannot be escaped altogether, they are subject to change.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ball, Terence, Richard Dagger, and Daniel I. O’Neill. *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN-10: 0205962548 • ISBN-13: 9780205962549

Additional required readings not included in the course reader are noted throughout the syllabus. These readings are available either on the elearning site for this course in the “Resources” folder or via hyperlinks provided throughout the syllabus.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Grading:** Grades for the course will be determined by several components: two 8-10 page papers (30% each); an in-class course final (25%); and class attendance

and participation, including weekly posts on the course blog (15%). The highest grade a late paper can receive in the absence of a legitimate excuse is a “C+.” An example of a legitimate excuse would be an illness for which you have a signed doctor’s note. Please be aware: A “C+” is not the lowest grade a late paper can receive; it is the highest (*i.e.*, it is the ceiling, not the floor). You have plenty of time to write the papers; do not wait until the last minute. Due dates for the papers are listed below. All papers must be submitted via elearning. Prior to the first paper, I will hand out guidelines that spell out my expectations concerning them. The final will be entirely essay based; the questions will be distributed in advance, on the last day of class for the semester.

- **Preparation:** You will notice that the portion of your grade comprised by attendance and active participation is fairly high. That is by design. Attendance will be taken regularly and students should come to each class meeting prepared to discuss the material that has been assigned for that class meeting. This means that ***you must do the reading to be covered during a given class in advance.*** If you have not done the reading beforehand, you will have nothing to contribute during class discussion. On a purely self-interested level, this will negatively impact your overall course grade. In a deeper sense, it will deprive you of the opportunity to dialogue with your peers about some of the most pressing moral and political questions of our day and stunt your personal growth -- that would be a shame.
- **Blog Posts:** In addition to participating during class discussion, you are required to make weekly contributions to the course blog. An invitation to join the blog will be sent to your .ufl email address prior to the first class meeting. If you have not received this invitation by the time of our first class meeting, please notify me via email at lbracewell@ufl.edu. Your blog contributions should consist of a quotation from the assigned reading for a given week and a brief reaction to the quotation. These reactions can take many forms (e.g. questions, criticisms, challenges, reflections, etc.), so long as they evince that you have engaged seriously and thoughtfully with the assigned readings. ***Blog posts must be at least 100 words in length (not counting the quotation) and they must be posted to the blog by noon on each Thursday for which there is a scheduled class meeting.*** Posts made after this deadline will not receive credit. These blog contributions will comprise no less than half of your overall participation grade for this course.
- **Policy on Academic Integrity:** All students will be held to the University of Florida Honor Code. Among other things, this means that cheating on exams is totally unacceptable, as is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of portraying as your own the words or ideas of other people. Examples include submitting entire papers, or portions of papers, that you did not write (*e.g.*, old papers written by other students, new papers written by other students, papers which you paid a “research” service to write for you, papers or portions of papers downloaded from the Internet). Copying verbatim or paraphrasing any substantial portion of text by another author without acknowledging the source via quotation and/or footnotes is

plagiarism. Plagiarism is far easier to spot than you might think, especially with the aid of services such as Turnitin.com. Do not ruin your experience in this or any other class by engaging in academic dishonesty.

- **Accommodations:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please come see me as soon as possible regarding this matter.

## **Lecture, Reading, and Discussion Schedule:**

### **Introduction**

**Tuesday, January 7:** Syllabus walk through and discussion of course expectations.

Reading: None.

**Thursday, January 9:**

Reading: “The Concept of Ideology” and “Ideology: The Career of a Concept” (available on elearning). Also, take and play around with the following online ideological self-placement quizzes: <http://www.people-press.org/typology/quiz/>, <http://www.politicalcompass.org/>, and <http://www.politopia.com/>. Share and reflect on your results on the course blog. ***This post is due by noon on Thursday, January 9.***

### **The Democratic Ideal**

**Tuesday, January 14:**

Reading: “Democracy and Despotism” from Euripides’ *The Suppliants*, “Funeral Oration” delivered by Pericles, recounted by Thucydides in his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, “Democratic Judgment and the ‘Middling’ Constitution” from Aristotle’s *Politics* (available on elearning)

**Thursday, January 16:**

Reading: “What’s Wrong with Princely Rule?” excerpt from Machiavelli’s *The Discourses*, “What Is a Republic?” excerpt from John Adam’s *Thoughts on Government*, “Bill of Rights of the United States” from the U.S. Constitution, “Democracy and Equality” excerpt from Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*, “Democratic Participation and Political Education” excerpt from J.S. Mill’s *Considerations on Representative Government* (available on elearning)

### **Liberalism**

Part I: Classical liberalism

**Tuesday, January 21:**

Reading: “The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation” excerpt from Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan*, “Toleration and Government” excerpts from John Locke’s *A Letter Concerning Toleration* and *Second Treatise on Government*

**Thursday, January 23:**

Reading: “Government, Rights, and the Freedom of Generations” excerpts from Tom Paine’s *Common Sense* and *The Rights of Man*, “Declaration of Independence of the United States,” “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens,” “Private, Profit, Public Good” excerpt from Adam Smith’s *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, “Freedom and Enlightenment” excerpt from Immanuel Kant’s “What is Enlightenment?,” “Liberty and Individuality” excerpt from J. S. Mill’s *On Liberty*

Part II: Welfare Liberalism

**Tuesday, January 28:**

Reading: “Liberalism and Positive Freedom” excerpt from T.H. Green’s “Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract,” “New Deal Liberalism: A Defense” excerpt from Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s “I welcome their hatred speech” (audio available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nuElu-ipTQ>), President Barack Obama’s Second Inaugural Address (transcript available here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/01/21/inaugural-address-president-barack-obama>, video available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zncqb-n3zMo>).

**Thursday, January 30:**

Reading: “Fundamental Ideas,” from John Rawls’ *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (available on e-learning)

Part III: Neoclassical liberalism and libertarianism

**Tuesday, February 4:**

Reading: “According to the Fitness of Things” excerpt from William Graham Sumner’s *What Social Classes Owe to Each Other*, “Paternalism v. Democracy: A Libertarian View,” “Libertarian Anarchism” excerpt from Murray Rothbard’s *For A New Liberty*, “A Libertarian Utopia”

**Thursday, February 6:**

Reading: “What is Capitalism?” excerpt from Ayn Rand’s *Capitalism: An Unknown Ideal* (available on e-learning), Senator Rand Paul’s Tea Party Response to President Barack Obama’s 2013 State of the Union Address (transcript available here: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/02/12/full-text-of-rand-pauls-tea-party-response-to-state-of-the-union>, video available here: [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2013/02/12/sen\\_rand\\_paul\\_delivers\\_tea\\_party\\_response\\_to\\_state\\_of\\_the\\_union.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2013/02/12/sen_rand_paul_delivers_tea_party_response_to_state_of_the_union.html)).

**First Paper Topic Handed Out**

## Conservatism

### Part I: Classical Conservatism

#### ***Tuesday, February 11:***

Reading: “Society, Reverence, and the ‘True Natural Aristocracy’” excerpts from Edmund Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France* and *Appeal from the Old to the New Whigs*, “Conservatism as Reaction” excerpts from Joseph de Maistre’s *Considerations on France* and *Study on Sovereignty*

#### ***Thursday, February 13:***

Reading: “On Being Conservative” by Michael Oakeshott, “Ten Conservative Principles” from Russell Kirk’s *The Politics of Prudence*, “Modern Liberalism and Cultural Decline” from Robert Bork’s *Slouching Toward Gomorrah*

### Part II: Neoconservatism

#### ***Tuesday, February 18:***

Reading: “The Neoconservative Persuasion” by Irving Kristol, “Standing Strong in a Confused Culture” excerpt from James Dobson’s *Dr. Dobson’s Newsletter*, “The Conservative Crack-Up” by W. James Antle III, Explore website for the Faith and Freedom Coalition: <http://ffcoalition.com/>

#### ***Thursday, February 20:***

Reading: “The Power of Marriage” (available here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/22/opinion/the-power-of-marriage.html>), “Freedom Loses One” (available here: [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/opinion/brooks-freedom-loses-one.html?ref=opinion&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/opinion/brooks-freedom-loses-one.html?ref=opinion&_r=1&)), “The Underlying Tragedy” <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/opinion/15brooks.html>, “The Solitary Leaker” (available here: [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/11/opinion/brooks-the-solitary-leaker.html?ref=davidbrooks&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/11/opinion/brooks-the-solitary-leaker.html?ref=davidbrooks&_r=0)), “The Nudge Debate” (available here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/09/opinion/brooks-the-nudge-debate.html?ref=davidbrooks>) by David Brooks

### **First Paper Due at Noon!**

## Socialism and Communism

### Part I: From More to Marx

#### ***Tuesday, February 25:***

Reading: “Utopia” excerpt from Thomas More’s *Utopia*, “Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark” by Robert Owen, “The Communist Manifesto” by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “On the Materialist Conception of History” from Karl Marx’s *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*

Part II: From Marx to Occupy

**Thursday, February 27:**

Reading: “Evolutionary Socialism” by Eduard Bernstein, “Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution” excerpts from *Selected Works* by V.I. Lenin, “The Permanent Revolution” by Leon Trotsky, “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship” by Mao Zedong

-----Spring Break-----

**Tuesday, March 11:**

Reading: “Anarcho-Communism vs. Marxism” from “Lettre a la Liberte” by Michel Bakunin, “Anarchism: What It Really Stands For” from *Anarchism and Other Essays* by Emma Goldman, “Looking Backward” by Edward Bellamy, “Christian Socialist Movement: A Statement of Aims,” “Can the Working Class Change the World?” by Michael D. Yates

**Thursday, March 13:**

We will attend a panel on contemporary socialism organized especially for our benefit by the good folks at Gainesville’s Civic Media Center ([www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)). The panel will feature Michela Martinazzi from Students for a Democratic Society, Lauren Byers from the International Socialist Organization, and Joe Courter from the CMC and the Gainesville Iguana.

**Liberation Ideologies**

Part I: Black liberation

**Tuesday, March 18:**

Reading: “Where Do We Go From Here?” by Martin Luther King Jr., “The Ballot or the Bullet” by Malcom X, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July” by Frederick Douglas

Part II: Women’s liberation

**Thursday, March 20:**

Reading: “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” by Mary Wollstonecraft, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen” by Olympe de Gouges, “Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions,” “Redstockings Manifesto” (available here: [http://www.redstockings.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=76&Itemid=59](http://www.redstockings.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76&Itemid=59)), “The Combahee River Collective Statement (available here: <http://circuitous.org/scraps/combahee.html>), “Feminism is for Everybody” by bell hooks (available on elearning).

Part III: Gay liberation, Native People’s liberation, and Animal liberation

**Tuesday, March 25:**

Reading: Selections from *Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation* (available on elearning), “Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments” by John Corvino, “Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom” from Taiaiake Alfred’s *Wasase: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*, “All Animals are Equal” by Peter Singer

**Thursday, March 27:** Discussion of liberation ideologies

## **Second Paper Topic Handed Out**

### **Fascism**

**Tuesday, April 1:**

Readings: “Civilization and Race” from Joseph-Arthur de Gobineau’s *Essay on the Inequality of Human Races*, “The Doctrine of Fascism” from the *Enciclopedia Italiana* by Benito Mussolini, “The Political Theory of Fascism” from Alfredo Rocco’s *The Political Doctrine of Fascism*, “Nation and Race” from Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*

**Thursday, April 3:** Discussion of fascism

### **Radical Islamism**

**Tuesday, April 8:**

Reading: “Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders: World Islamic Front Statement” by Osama Bin Laden and others, “Signposts Along the Road” from *Signposts Along the Road* by Sayyid Qutb, “The Necessity for Islamic Government” from *Islam and Revolution: Writings and Declarations of Imam Khomeini* by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

**Thursday, April 10:** Discussion of Radical Islamism

## **Second Paper Due at Noon!**

### **Ecology as Ideology**

**Tuesday, April 15:** Lorna is at a dorky political science conference trying desperately to get a job. You’ll be treated to a guest lecture from one of her esteemed colleagues, Saskia Van Wees.

Reading: TBD by Saskia

**Thursday, April 17:** Lorna is still at a dorky political science conference. You have the option of gathering to discuss green ideology with one another without me. Attendance will not be taken and this class meeting is not mandatory. Nevertheless, ***you are still required to post to the blog this week.***

### **Conclusion**

***Tuesday, April 22: Final exam questions handed out.***

***Wednesday, April 30, 12:30-2:30pm: FINAL EXAM***