POT 3302-0700: Modern Political Ideologies
Department of Political Science
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Dr. Daniel Marien	Term:	Spring 2012
Office:	Room 223	Class Meeting Days:	Thursdays
Phone:	321-433-7952	Class Meeting Hours:	6:00-8:50 pm
E-Mail:	danielmarien@yahoo.com	Class Location:	BCC Cocoa Building 3 Room 234
Website:			
Office Hours:	Tu/Th 4:30-6:00 pm		

I. UCF Catalog General Course Description

"A study of modern ideologies since the French Revolution including liberalism, conservatism, capitalism, nationalism, fascism and anarchism."

II. Overview of this Specific Course

Ideologies are sets of ideas inspiring, guiding, and justifying political behavior, institutions, and government policy. Ideologies are important features of politics. They help us make sense of the world around us and guide political action. They have led people to great achievements, but they also have moved people to commit terrible deeds.

The course examines a number of ideologies influential in modern politics. We focus particularly on: liberalism (in both its "libertarian" and welfare state variants); socialism (in both its revolutionary, or communist, and reformist, or social-democratic, variants); conservatism; Nazism; feminism and; radical Islamic fundamentalism.

We submit these ideologies to a rigorous critical scrutiny and evaluation. We analyze the core values, the key ideas, the hidden assumptions, the social institutions, the governmental policies and individual behavior promoted. We also look at the careers of political leaders strongly identified with political ideologies.

We examine the propaganda images (still images and films) deployed in support or criticism of ideologies. Finally we examine the character of daily life in places shaped by various ideologies as well as the social and historical contexts in which these ideologies flourished.

The course also invites a critical reflection on whether ideologies are useful or dysfunctional in modern politics. Some analysts see political ideologies as dangerously rigid doctrines not supported by rational argument, indeed operating in a way precluding the possibility of rational discussion. Others, while acknowledging that ideologies lack the quality of scientific theories or reasoned political theories, see them as functionally indispensable.

Attendance to class meetings is compulsory.

III. Course Structure

This course is structured as a seminar. Students will take turn in leading the discussion on assigned materials. Students summarize the days' assigned material's main conclusions and suggest questions for debate in oral statements (assisted by written notes).

Students also research a specific aspect of a specific ideology of your choice and publish the results of your inquiry to all class members on an electronic platform. A selected number of individual research reports will be subject to final examination. Students will thus produce part of the course's contents.

In most cases, your research report will take the form of an essay or a book review on one of the following aspects: (1) substance and development of ideas; (2) leaders' achievements and failings; (3) propaganda images (including films); (4) daily life. More details on this later.

IV. Course Objectives

<u>General Course Goals</u>

1. To help students understand the content and context of the major political ideologies influencing the modern political world, namely: Nazism/fascism, communism, social-democracy, conservatism, libertarianism and welfare state liberalism, feminism, environmentalism, gay liberation, and radical Islamic fundamentalism.
2. To help students reflect on the contributions and dangers of ideological thinking in political life.

3. To help students understand daily life in places or countries ruled by a specific ideology.

4. To help students choose in a reflective manner a political ideology to orient their evaluation of political events and guide their civic engagement.

5. To familiarize students with the iconography (propaganda posters. cartoons, paintings), and the cinematography affiliated with a given ideology or critical of life under this ideology.

6. To develop students' ability to work productively in small groups, thereby developing workplace skills.

Specific Instructional Objectives

During this course, the students will learn:

1. a) To describe in specific terms and for each ideology studied the core values, the key ideas, the hidden assumptions, the social institutions, government policies and individual behavior promoted.
1. b) To name the places and describe in specific terms the social and historical contexts in which each of the studied ideologies flourished.

2. To describe social scientific arguments related to the usefulness and danger of ideological thinking.

3. To describe the daily experience of people under each of the ideologies studied in terms of material life (economic opportunity, access to education, health care, social security) and intellectual life (access to information, free expression, free assembly).

4. To give specific and coherent reasons for endorsing one (or a few) ideology(ies) over others as guide for political action in the contemporary world.

5. To describe in specific terms some of the iconography or cinematography affiliated with a few ideologies or critical of life under these ideologies.

6. To divide group tasks in clear and functional ways, to communicate ideas effectively, to listen attentively to other students' ideas and viewpoints, to demonstrate responsibility toward the group, and to integrate their ideas and contributions in a larger ensemble.

V. Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites include an open mind and a readiness to reflect on the subject matter. There are no prerequisites in the sense of having completed specific previous courses.

VI. Course Credits

3 credits

VII. Required Texts and Materials

You must purchase or borrow:

Terrence Ball and Richard Dagger, *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal,* **eighth edition, 2011, ONLY: avoid previous edition of this text.** Pearson ISBN 13: 978-0-205-77996-3.

Michael Freeden, *Ideology: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN 13: 978-0192802811.

VIII. Additional Texts and Materials

Depending on your specific research topic, you will be directed to portions of the following materials available at the UCF library:

Toby Clark, *Art and Propaganda in the Twentieth Century*, 1997.
UCF library: NX650.P6 C63 1997
Michael Freeden, *Ideologies and Political Theory*, 1996.
UCF library: JA 83 .F76 1996.
Leszek Kolakowski, *Main Currents of Marxism*, 2005.
UCF library: HX36 .K61813 2005
Magedah Shabo, *Techniques of Propaganda and Persuasion*, 2008.
Richard Taylor, *Film Propaganda: Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany*, 1998.
UCF library: PN1995.9.P6 T39 1998.

IX. Basis for Final Grade

Assessment	Percent of final course grade
RAT Quizzes	20
General Seminar Participation	15
Seminar Leaderships	15
Individual Contribution to Group Report	40
Final Exam	10

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0 - 59	F

X. Schedule (note: this schedule is subject to revision)

1st Week: Introduction

Thursday, 1/12: Introduction

- Presentation of course goals and means.

2nd Week: Ideologies: An Overview

Thursday 1/19:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 1 and Freeden, chapters 1 and 6.

3rd Week: Democracy

Thursday 1/26:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 2 and Freeden, chapter 3.

4th Week: Liberalism

Thursday 2/2:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 3 and Freeden, chapter 4.

5th Week: Conservatism

Thursday 2/9:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 4 and Freeden, chapter 5.

6th Week: Socialism I

Thursday 2/16:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 5 and Freeden, chapter 6.

7th Week: Socialism II

Thursday 2/23:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 6 and Freeden, chapter 9.

8th Week: Fascism and Nazism

Thursday 3/1:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 7.

9th Week: Spring Break

10th Week: Identity Politics

Thursday 3/15:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 8 and Freeden, chapter 7.

11th Week: Radical Islamic Fundamentalism

Thursday 3/22:

- RAT Quiz on Ball and Dagger, chapter 10 and Freeden, chapter 10.

12th Week: Research Planning

Thursday 3/29:

- Research Planning

13th Week: Research Planning

Thursday 4/5:

- Research Planning

14th Week: Research Planning

Thursday 4/12:

- Research Planning

15th Week: Study Week (no class meeting)

Thursday 4/19: No class

16th Week: Final Exam

Thursday 4/26: Final Exam

XI. Grade Dissemination

Grades will be posted on Webcourses@UCF.

XII. Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for missing RAT quizzes or class graded group discussion. Two justified absences from these exercises will be excused. A penalty of one course point for each absence will be applied.

Grades of Incomplete

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

XIII. Grading Policy

Graded Group Discussions receive a collective grade, i.e the grade applies to all members of the group. Only a random sample of such discussions will be graded by the instructor. Group members are entitled to two absences without penalty from these discussions **if** the absence is for reason beyond their control **and if** sufficient documentation is provided. Otherwise point deductions will be made.

RAT Quizzes are graded individually. These short quizzes are meant to evaluate the student's readiness to engage in group discussion. Students are entitled to two absences on RAT quizzes without penalty **if** the absence is for reason beyond their control **and if** sufficient documentation is provided. Otherwise point deductions will be made.

Papers are graded individually (unless a pair of students elects to write a common paper).

XIV. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Use my email to communicate with me: danielmarien@yahoo.com. Allow up to 48 hours for a response. Repeat message if you haven't received a response within 48 hours.

Laptop Usage: All laptops and other electronic devices must be closed during lectures and discussions. Laptop usage by the group note taker is welcome

during graded group discussions only. Students observed using an unauthorized electronic device in class will be punished by the subtraction of one course point per observation. Students should consult the written and audio documents available at these URL for rationale justifying this policy:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/07/technology/07brain.html?ref=homepage&src=me&pagewanted=all

http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=129384107&m=129398822

XV. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Academic Conduct Policy:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a failing grade for the entire course and can also result in expulsion from the University.

Turinitin.com:

In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author’s work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this

process, visit http://www.turnitin.com. Essays are due at turnitin.com the same day as in class.