POT 3302 MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Department of Political Science
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor:	Dr. Daniel Marien	Term:	Sum. A 2011
Office:	Phillips Halls, room 313	Class Meeting Days:	M, Tu, W, Th.
Phone:	407-823-2608	Class Meeting Hours:	2:00-3:50pm
E-Mail:	danielmarien@yahoo.com	Class Location:	PSY 105
Office Hours:	Tu and Th 4:00pm-5:00pm		

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 more or less coherent systems 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: Nazism and Fascism; Socialism (in both its revolutionary or communist and reformist or social-democratic variants); Conservatism; and Liberalism (in both its "libertarian" and welfare state variants). The course also offers the possibility of studying radical Islamic fundamentalism, feminism, gay liberation, and environmentalism.

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.

In this course you will read, take quizzes on, and discuss a set of readings common to the entire class. You will also research a specific aspect of a specific ideology of your choice and publish the results of your inquiry to all class members. 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.

Regular attendance to class meetings is expected.

III. Course Objectives

General Course Goals

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, music, cinematography and literature 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.

IV. 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.

V. Course Credits

3 credits

VI. Required Texts and Materials

You must purchase or borrow:

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

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

Library Reserve for the following:

Paul Weindling, "Genetics, Eugenics and the Holocaust," in Denis Alexander (editor) and Ronald Numbers (editor), *Biology and Ideology: from Descartes to Dawkins*, University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Nicolai Krementsov, "Darwinism, Marxism, and Genetics in the Soviet Union," also in *Biology and Ideology*.

Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, *Merchants of Doubt*, Bloomsbury Press, 2010, chapter 6: The Denial of Global Warming

Paul Barresi, 2007. "Navigating the Ideological and Cultural Landscapes of Environmental Policy-Making in the United States." *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review* 10 (1 & 2):1-32.

VII. 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 reserve:

Mick Billig et al., *Ideological Dilemmas: A Social Psychology of Everyday Thinking*, 1988.
Michael Freeden, *Ideology and Political Theory*, 1996.
Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914-1991*, 1994.
John Jost et al., *Social and Psychological Bases of Ideology and System Justification*, 2009.
Leszek Kolakowski, *Main Currents of Marxism*, 2005.
Charles Taylor, "Atomism."

VIII. Basis for Final Grade

Assessment	Percent of final course grade
RAT Quizzes	20
Graded Group Discussions	30
Individual Contribution to Group Report	30
Final Exam	20

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

IX. Schedule (subject to revision)

1st Week: Introduction and Nazism

Monday, 5/16: Introduction

- Presentation of instructor and students
- Discussion of course goals and means
- Music as object of ideological struggle: viewing and discussion of an excerpt from *The Red Violin* (film directed by François Girard, 1998).

Tuesday, 5/17: Concepts of Ideology and Democracy

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Ball/Dagger chapters 1-2.

Wednesday, 5/18: Nazism

- Viewing of *Europa, Europa* (film directed by Agnieszka Holland, 1990).

Thursday, 5/19: Nazism

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Ball/Dagger chapter 7, Weindling, "Genetics, Eugenics and the Holocaust" (library reserve) and *Europa, Europa*.

2nd Week: Socialism

Monday, 5/23: Socialism Before and After Marx

- RAT quiz and discussion on Ball/Dagger, chapters 5-6

Tuesday, 5/24: Really-Existing Communism

- Viewing of *Man of Marble* (film directed by Andrzej Wajda, 1977).

Wednesday, 5/25: More on the Concept of Ideology

- RAT quiz and discussion on Freeden, chapters 1 and 3.

Thursday, 5/26: Ideology and Biology in the Soviet Union

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Krementsov.
- Research Planning.

3rd Week: Conservatism

Monday, 5/30: NO CLASS (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, 5/31: Conservatism

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Ball/Dagger chapter 4.

Wednesday, 6/1: More on the Concept of Ideology

- RAT quiz and discussion on Freeden, chapters 4-6.

Thursday, 6/2: More on the Concept of Ideology

- RAT quiz and discussion on Freeden, chapters 9-10.

4th Week: Liberalism and Libertarianism

Monday, 6/6: Liberalism I

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Ball/Dagger chapter 3.

Tuesday, 6/7: Liberalism II

- Group discussion on Ball/Dagger chapter 3.

Wednesday, 6/8: Ideological Commitments and Response to Climate Science I

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Barresi, "Navigating the Ideological and Cultural Landscapes of Environmental Policy-Making in the United States
- "Climategate" documents

Thursday, 6/9: Ideological Commitments and Response to Climate Science II

- RAT quiz and group discussion on Oreskes and Conway, chapter 6: The Denial of Global Warming.

5th Week: Research Planning

Monday, 6/13: Research Planning

- Research planning with group members and instructor.

Tuesday, 6/14: Individual Research

- No class meeting

Wednesday, 6/15: Individual Research

- No class meeting

Thursday, 6/16: Research Planning

- Research planning with group members and instructor.

- All individual contributions must be emailed to group editor, group members and course Drop-box in Webcourses@UCF by Saturday 6/18 9:00 am.
- All group reports must be assembled on the course wiki by Sunday 6/19 at midnight.

6th Week: Study and Exam Periods

Monday, 6/20: Study Period

- No class meeting

Tuesday, 6/21: Study Period

- No class meeting

Wednesday, 6/22: Study Period

- No class meeting

Thursday, 6/23: EXAM

- Exam on selected individual contributions to group report.

X. Grade Dissemination

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grade Book function of Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

XI. Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for in-class graded group discussion or for the final exam. Contributions to the team report turned in late will be assessed a penalty of 10 course points.

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.

Grading Policy

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 one absence 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.

Graded Group Discussions receive a collective grade. Only a random sample of such discussions will be graded by the instructor. Team members are entitled to one absence without penalty from these discussions **if** the absence is for reason beyond their control **and if** sufficient documentation is provided.

Contributions to group report are graded individually (unless a pair of students elects to write a common paper). Contribution topics must be coordinated with the group and the instructor.

The final exam covers the team report contributions selected by the instructor after recommendation from the respective groups. The exam will be time-limited with access to the team reports. It will feature true/false and multiple choice questions.

XII. 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. 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

XIII. 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 your research report (contribution to group report) in both hard copy and electronic format via Turnitin. 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.