UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
Political Theory 3302
Modern Political Ideologies
Fall 2012

Dr. Paul A. Labedz
Telephone: (407) 582-2227
Email: Paul.Labedz@ucf.edu
Office hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of modern ideologies since the French Revolution including (but not limited to) liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, fascism and anarchism.

READINGS

The following texts are assigned for this course and are available for purchase at the University of Central Florida bookstore.

Baradat, Leon P. *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009) 10th edition.

Festenstein, Matthew and Kenny, Michael, eds., *Political Ideologies: A Reader and Guide* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- Two (2) exams (50 points each)
- 4-6-page Current Affairs Analysis (50 points)
  Due in class, 29 NOV 2012
- Class participation (10 points)

EXAMINATIONS

Two (2) essay-style examinations will be given throughout the semester. The exams will contain comparative essay questions and/or textual analysis questions. The first exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 1-3; the second exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 4-7. Each exam is worth a maximum of 50 points.

CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

Students will select a contemporary issue of political salience and explain how two different ideological approaches would analyze and describe this issue. The instructor will provide a list of topics that students can use to complete the assignment. Students will be allowed to select an alternative topic not found on the list of topics, but this will be contingent upon permission being granted by the instructor. A student's response must be between 500-700 typed words (i.e., between 4-6 pages, double-spaced). This assignment is worth a maximum of 50 points and is due on the last day of classes.

GRADING

The overall grade for the course will be based on the student's performance on each of the above assignments. The maximum number of points a student can acquire is 160.

The grading scale is based on the following point distributions: 144-160=A, 128-143=B, 112-127=C, 96-111=D, 0-95= F.

Grades will not be based on a curve and will reflect the quality of the work submitted.

No extra credit opportunities will be available for this course.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. There will be only four **EXCUSED** absences allowed over the course of the semester. Any unexcused absences will result in five points being deducted from your final course grade for each absence. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class period; therefore, it is important that you arrive to class on time. Should you happen to arrive late for a particular session, be sure to sign the roster after class so that you are not marked absent.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

All students will be expected to take each of the examinations on the scheduled dates. In the event that a student has an excused absence on the date of the exams, he/she will have to take a make-up examination on a date and at a location selected by the instructor. Failure to take the make-up exam on the rescheduled date will result in a score of 0 for the examination.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at the University of Central Florida. Academic dishonesty in any portion of your coursework (such as plagiarism on the paper or cheating on an examination) will result, at the very least, in your being assigned a failing grade for the course. If

you're uncertain as to what constitutes cheating or plagiarism or if you have any other concerns related to academic dishonesty, be sure to discuss the matter with the instructor. "Better safe than sorry" is good advice in matters involving academic integrity.

EXPECTED STUDENT CONDUCT:

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at UCF, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or university rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from UCF. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions.

COURSE OBJECTIVE & FORMAT:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the variety of political ideologies that have arisen in the Western world since the late 17th century. The course will thus be organized around this diversity, which is meant to provide students with the tools necessary to understand the application of these ideologies, both historically and in the contemporary world.

In general, the class will be conducted as a mixture of lecture and discussion and will provide the student with a forum to raise any questions he/she may have concerning the material covered in lectures and in the assigned readings.

COURSE OUTLINE

Here is a week-by-week list of topics, examination dates, and associated readings.

DISCLAIMER: The schedule is subject to change if certain topics prove to require more or less time.

Topic 1: Introduction to Political Ideology: A framework for analysis.

Readings: Baradat (**Hereafter: Text**): Chapter 1-2; Festenstein & Kenny (**Hereafter: Reader**): pp. 1-13, 17-20, 27-32, 39-44

Topic 2: Liberalism

Readings: **Text**, Chapters 4-6; **Reader:** pp. 51-65, 72-90, 99-102

Topic 3: Conservatism

Readings: **Text**, 90-93; **Reader:** pp. 119-131, 150-168, 172-175

MID-TERM EXAM: TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2012

Topic 4: Socialism

Readings: **Text**, Chapters: 8-9; **Reader:** pp. 175-218, 223-229, 233-246

Topic 5: Nationalism & Fascism

Readings: **Text**, Chapters 3 & 10; **Reader:** pp. 257-265, 271-274, 276-279, 381-390, 394-398

Topic 6: Anarchism

Readings: **Text**, Chapter 7; **Reader:** pp. 353-356, 360-369, 375-381

Topic 7: Feminism and Environmentalism

Readings: **Text**, Chapter 12; **Reader:** Chapter 6-7

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2012 from 1-350PM

I hope you enjoy the class and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

SPECIAL RULES:

In accordance with state and federal law, instructors at the University of Central Florida cannot release information relating to the academic performance of students to persons other than the staff without the student's written consent. In order for this information to be given out at request of a third party, the student must first sign a consent form to release their educational records.