POT 3302-DW59
Summer 2017
Modern Political Ideologies

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

COURSE OUTLINE

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Office Hours: make appointment via email.

I. Subject Overview

Ideologies are sets of ideas inspiring, guiding, and justifying political behavior, institutions, and government policy. They help make sense of the world around us. They guide political action. They structure political identity for some people and organizations, such as political parties. As such, they are important and inescapable features of modern politics.

But ideologies are not solid, separate and unchanging constellations of ideas. Rather, they cluster in family types with porous boundaries allowing them to borrow from each other. And they evolve over time, responding to new circumstances, successes and failures.

Ideologies have led to great achievements. Think of the emergence of representative governments elected by all citizens -- the result of liberal, socialist and feminist pressures. Or again, think of the equalization of gender statuses in both law and social practices in response to feminism.

But ideologies have also moved people to commit terrible deeds in the name of dubious abstractions. Think of the systematic killing of European Jews by Nazism in the name of German national redemption and racial purity. Think of the cruel internment of millions of so-called “dissidents” in Soviet labor camps in the name of building a worker’s paradise.

This course examines the ideas and practical influence -- achievements and shortcomings -- of the most significant families or clusters of ideologies in modern political life covered in our main textbook, namely:

(1) Liberalism, a historically and geographically varied family of ideologies stressing individualism and the ability of human beings to act rationally. Liberalism divides into two major strains: classical liberalism (now called conservatism in the U.S.) and modern liberalism (or welfare state liberalism).
(2) Conservatism, an ideology perhaps best defined as a skeptical disposition towards large scale projects of social improvement and as an ingrained respect for established practices and authorities. This course will redefine the students' perception of the opposition between liberalism and conservatism.
(3) Socialism, in both its communist (or revolutionary) version and social-democratic (or reformist) version. Among the many relevant questions worth exploring: What is the communist ideal? What are the lessons of the awful Soviet experiment? Does Soviet history illustrate Burke's insistence that societal reconstruction along rational lines is doomed to failure? Further, what are the achievements of social democracy where it has been more systematically pursued, namely in Scandinavia? Can social democracy tame the 21st century challenges of globalization? Incidentally, the Sanders campaign is loosely inspired by Scandinavian social democracy.
(4) Fascism/Nazism, a destructive ideology that has done much to mark 20th century history. While this ideology may not be a legitimate candidate to guide our politics in the 21st century, many interesting questions may be raised in relation to Fascism. Among others: are contemporary far-right "populist" movements articulating a renewed form of Fascism? Think of the Trump campaign in the U.S., the *Front National* in France, or *Alternative für Deutschland* in Germany, or the UK Independence Party in Britain.
(5) Libertarianism, an ideology professing an undivided devotion to individualism, absolute private property rights, unfettered markets and the minimal state. Libertarianism inspires such works as Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. It is popular with some young people in the United States. In many ways, libertarianism is nothing but a new label for conservative classical liberalism. Old wine in a new bottle! Yet, this wine is tasty to some.
(6) Feminism, an ideology developed around a concern for gender equality. Ironically, many young people today reject the label while embracing at least some of its content. This ironical situation is an outcome of the success of conservatives in defining and distorting feminism's image. The course will clarify some issues in this respect.
(7) Green politics, developed around a concern for environmental integrity. As with other ideological families, green politics comes in many variants, ranging from the mainstream thought of ecological modernization and sustainable development to the philosophical radicalism of "deep ecology."
(8) Identity politics, an ideology developed around the demand for social and cultural recognition of marginalized minorities.
(9) Radical Islamic "Fundamentalism," i.e. the inspiration for *The Muslim Brotherhood*, *Al Qaida, Islamic State* and similar movements.

II. Course Materials

You will need to have ready access to the following:

Terrence Ball, Richard Dagger and Daniel O'Neill
Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal.
Routledge, **10th edition**, ISBN: 978-1-138-650001-5. **AVOID EARLIER EDITION**

Additional assigned readings will be uploaded in Webcourses, under Files, under B) Additional Assigned Readings.

III. Basic Course Expectations

Students are expected to: (1) always have working connections to the internet; (2) to promptly procure the textbook; (3) to regularly log-on to the course's website in Webcourses via the Home Page. The Home Page is where you will find updates, general feedback and other useful information; (4) to take quizzes and submit postings in due time; (5) to regularly consult their Knights email (for personal messages); (6) to engage class participants in a respectful manner meeting the ECP standards (see Files, Grading Standards); (8) to respect the rules of academic honesty, in particular never to present text not their own as their own wording.

IV. 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 modern (welfare state) liberalism, green politics, feminism, identity politics, and radical Islamic fundamentalism.

2. To help students recognize the impact of ideological thinking on party politics in general and in the U.S. in particular.

3. To help students develop a critical stance towards all ideologies.

V. Assessment Overview

Assessment Overview

WHAT	WHEN	POINTS
Before Course Perception of Ideologies This serves to free up your financial aid.	Friday 5/19: 11:59pm Attach file in Dropbox	**2**
After Course Perception of Ideologies	Friday 7/7: 11:59 PM Attach file in Dropbox	**3**
Weekly Quiz Average Each quiz is over 40 points. The average is used to compute the final course grade	Week 1-4 (5/22 to 6/12) Week 6-8 (6/26 to 7/10 by Monday Evenings 11:59 P.M.	**40**
Weekly Discussion Post Average Each weekly post is scored over 25 points. The average is used to compute the final course grade	Week 1-4 (5/22 to 6/12) Week 6-8 (6/26 to 7/10 by Monday Evenings 11:59 P.M.	**25**
Four ECP Posts Engaging class participants with respectful and well thought out disagreements on their answers to Evaluation Questions. Each post should have a minimum of 300 words.	Anytime during Week 1-4 (5/22 to 6/12) Week 6-8 (6/26 to 7/10) by Monday Evenings 11:59 P.M.	**10** 2.5 points for each post meeting the standards explained in Files under Grading Standards.

Mid-term Brief Essay 1,000 to 1,200 words On one of several pre-set question with assigned sources	Week 5 due Monday June 19 at 11:59 PM Upload a file in Dropbox	**10**
Final Brief Essay 1,000 to 1,200 words On one of several pre-set questions with assigned sources	Week 9 due Monday July 17 at 11:59 PM Upload a file in Dropbox	**10**
TOTAL		**100**

HOW TO FIGURE YOUR FINAL COURSE GRADE:

Entre your personal scores for these values:

Before/After + Quiz Average + Weekly Post Average + ECP + Mid-term Essay + Final Essay = Total in points over 100.

Then convert that numerical total into a letter grade in accordance with the Grading Scale below.

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

VI. 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 beyond English Composition.

VII. Course Credits

3 credits

VIII. Course Schedule

Always check the Home Page for updates, general feedback and other useful information. Changes are not likely, but, if they occur, they will be limited. Nevertheless not paying attention to announced change might hurt your grade.

The Weekly Module updates the Course Outline: in case of a discrepancy between the Course Outline and the Module of the week, the Module is correct.

Week 1, 5/15 to 5/22: What is an Ideology? What is Democracy?

- Turn in your BEFORE course submission before Friday 5/19 at 11:59 PM
- Read the Course Outline.

- Read Ball et al., chapters 1 and 2

- **Take the Quiz** (before Monday evening May 22 at 11:59 P.M.) covering the reading materials assigned for the week.
- **Post your answers in the Week 1 Discussion Board** (before Monday evening May 22 at 11:59 P.M.).
- Instructor's Remarks and or video documents may also be assigned on any given week. Follow the instruction in the Weekly Module

- This sequence of quiz and discussion question is repeated weekly with the exception of Week 5 and Week 9.

Week 2, May 22 to May 29: Liberalism

- Read Ball et al., chapter 3 Liberalism

Week 3, May 29 to June 5: Conservatism

- Read Ball et al., chapter 4 Conservatism

Week 4, June 5 to June 12: Identity Politics

- Read Ball and Dagger, chapter 8

Week 5, June 12 to June 19: Mid-term Essay

- Select one of the pre-set essay questions; read the assigned materials for this question; compose an essay (1,000 to 1,200 words) answering the question on the basis of the assigned materials; submit a file in the Dropbox by Monday June 19 at 11:59 PM.

Week 6, June 19 to June 26: Socialism

- Read Ball et al. chapters 5 and 6

Week 7, June 26 to July 3: Fascism

- Read Ball et al. chapter 7

Week 8, July 3 to July 10: Green Politics + Radical Islamism

- Read Ball et al. chapters 9-10

Week 9, July 10 to July 17: Final Essay

- Select one of the pre-set essay questions; read the assigned materials for this question; compose an essay (1,000 to 1,200 words) answering the question on the basis of the assigned materials; submit a file in the Dropbox by Monday June 19 at 11:59 PM.

IX. Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for missing weekly quizzes or discussion postings.

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. The 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.

X. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Use my email to communicate with me: Daniel.Marien@ucf.edu. Allow up to 48 hours for a response. Repeat message if you haven't received a response within 48 hours.

XI. 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. 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 the instructor may 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. The instructor submits your texts to Turnitin at his discretion. Student found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the entire course and may incur additional penalties.

In particular, weekly postings must be original. To ensure originality, students are not able to view classmates' posts before they have themselves posted in the Discussion Board. Students are also not able to edit their postings after having posted it in the Discussion Board. **It is strongly recommended that you compose your post in a word processing file, review it there for content and style and only then paste the final product in the Discussion Board.**

Quizzes are individual exercises with open access to the materials but limited time to answer the questions.

Consult the UCF Academic Integrity Flyer in Webcourses under Files under Assigned Readings for more details.