UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
Political Theory 3302
Modern Political Ideologies
FALL 2025

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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, 2012) 11th edition. ISBN-10: 0205082386**,** ISBN-13: 978-0205082384

Festenstein, Matthew and Kenny, Michael, eds., *Political Ideologies: A Reader and Guide* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005) ISBN-10: 0199248370, ISBN-13: 978-0199248377

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- Two (2) exams (50 points each)
- 4-6-page Current Affairs Analysis (50 points)
  Due via Canvas: 27 NOV
- 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 1-2; the second exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 3-7. 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 4-6 pages, double-spaced. This assignment is worth a maximum of 50 points and is due on the last day that our class meets for instruction.

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, 138-143=B+, 128-137=B, 123-127=C+, 112-122=C, 107-111= D+, 101-106=D, 96-100=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 strongly recommended. Due to the uncertainty associated with the Covid-19 virus, there needs to be flexibility built within attendance policy. Keep in mind, though, that a significant amount the material used for assessments in this course comes directly from what is introduced during classroom instruction/discussions.

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

The assigned activity for this course requires students to access UCF webcourses and complete the assignment labeled "Student Data Sheet." The completed data sheet must be submitted to the instructor via UCF webcourses prior to the **deadline of 22 AUG.**

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

All students will be expected to take each of the examinations on the scheduled dates. If 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 whether courses are taught online or on campus. Academic dishonesty in any portion of your coursework (such as plagiarism on written assignments or cheating on an examination) will result, at the very least, in your being assigned a failing grade for the course. Students are prohibited from cheating by including, but not limited to: 1) attempting to use, possess, or disseminate unauthorized materials for academic assignments; 2) presenting material obtained through the effort of someone other than the student for the student's assignment credit; 3) buying and selling course materials such as class notes or assigned work to other students; 4) falsifying or misrepresenting one's academic work; and 5) plagiarism, including but not limited to: a) using another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own, b) submitting work for more than one class without the instructor's approval, or c) use of tools related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). 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.

MID-TERM EXAM: 9 OCT

Topic 3: Conservatism

Readings: **Text**, 96-99; **Reader:** pp. 119-131, 150-168,172-175

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. 353-369, 375-381

Topic 7: Feminism and Environmentalism

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

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, 4 DEC 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.