

**BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF BUSINESS, MATHEMATICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

POL 103	PROF.
MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES	

STUDENT COURSE OF STUDY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Modern Political Ideologies will focus on the key ideologies that have dominated contemporary world politics. Such theories as Socialism, Communism, Fascism, Democracy and Islamism will be studied.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and contrast the key concepts of Democracy, Socialism, Communism, Nationalism, Fascism, Islamism and Anarchism;
2. Distinguish the relative importance of the individual, the class, the nation, religion and the state in each of the major ideologies;
3. Trace the logical and historical development of modern ideologies from similar western origins (as compared to Islamism); and
4. Analyze their impact on modern political movements.

SICK DAYS/PERSONAL LEAVE DAYS/ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is expected that students will attend all class meetings. If a student misses more than three weeks worth of classes throughout the semester he/she will not pass the course. **For example, if the course meets twice a week, no more than six absences are tolerated, for any reason. The student will not pass the course for reasons of absence alone.** For a course that meets once a week, the maximum number of absences tolerated is three. Three latenesses equal one absence; classes when tests are held are included as classes. Illness, accidents and business emergencies sometimes occur; therefore it behooves everyone to **anticipate these emergencies by being in class routinely.** Look upon absences as your sick days and personal days on a job: use them when necessary; take too many and you lose the job! (If you are late be sure to see the Professor that class lest it be counted as an absence.)

There are no “excused” absences; only absences. If you are involved in school activities, such as athletic teams, plays or student government ensure that you carefully program your personal days. The same is true of emergencies at work or home, etc.

CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS:

Cell phone use is prohibited in class. They are to be turned off and removed from the desk. Violation of this policy results in being recorded as absent. Laptops may be used with the permission of the Professor for taking notes. A copy of the notes taken that class must be emailed to the Professor by the end of the day.

GRADES:

Consistent with the Attendance Policy grades will be earned through a series of **three tests** (60%), a written **portfolio-essay** described below (30%), and **class participation** which includes participation, lateness and attendance among other things (10%).

TESTS:

Approximate time of tests is indicated on this outline; exact dates will be announced one week prior to a test. **BE THERE!** Due to the tendency of a small number of students to abuse normal class procedures the following information is called to your attention: **Makeups** for missed exams are granted only for serious reasons at the discretion of the Professor; Students requesting a makeup should be prepared to take it the day they return to class; Makeups will not normally be during class time; **only one makeup per semester is allowed.** Tests will include material from all sources: text, readings and lectures.

PORTFOLIO-ESSAY:

This **research assignment** is designed to focus on one, relevant, current topic based on articles from the newspapers, especially the New York Times, www.nytimes.com, and other computer accessible sources, such as Web sites. This assignment will also introduce students to the wide range of political events related to this course, which occur during the semester and which are discussed in class.

Basically, this requires the student to read the newspaper, select and follow an approved topic as it develops during the semester. Clip and collect the related articles in your portfolio and then organize them with a commentary (essay) explaining the development over the period and offering your observations and conclusions. **Two articles and one paragraph will be handed in each week identifying and justifying your topic. Without the early research and topic approval the final essay will not be accepted.**

The first part of your final essay should identify the ideology you have chosen and describe its key elements. Then you should integrate your articles to show the current status or impact of that ideology **in the world today**. Be sure to show both sides of the issue.

Topics you should consider are:

1. **Socialism/Communism** in the 21st Century (e.g., China, Cuba or South America (Venezuela)) or
2. **Challenges** to Individualism in Liberal Democracy (Privacy v. Security) (Government provided Healthcare) or
3. **Islamism** v. Liberal Democracy.

The important point is that you find current sources in the NY Times and other places such as web sites.

You will not simply summarize each separate article but write a comprehensive, integrated essay on your topic based on the information gathered. **Your essay must utilize and integrate the articles published and collected this semester.** The essay is to be a minimum of 4-6 pages (1000-1500 words), typed and double spaced in term paper format. **At least ten newspaper articles** and other sources, published and collected over the course of the semester, are expected. Sources must be **cited** in your paper. **The original newspaper articles or computer printouts and documents will be handed in with the essay.**

Due date: April 13, 2010

STUDY GROUPS: "Extra-credit" assignments are not available. **Peer study groups are highly recommended.** An opportunity to form such groups, which will meet on their own schedule, will be offered in class. It is best to have no fewer than 3 nor more than 5 for a group. You would review the material and your notes before tests and quiz one another. Plan to meet before or after class in the cafeteria or library. Another method is to form your own **electronic group.** Get in touch with each other and discuss the issues before the tests.

CELL PHONES/LAP TOPS: Cell phones and similar hand-held electronic devices are prohibited in class. They are to be turned off and removed from the desk. Use of cell phones/twittering during class time will result in being considered **absent.** Lap tops require the Professor's permission and require a copy of that class's notes to be emailed to the Professor on that day.

COMMUNICATIONS:

PRIMARY	EMAIL: (include your name and class in message)
SECONDARY	OFFICE:
TERTIARY	PHONE:

TEXT:

Both of these books are required and will be used in the course.

Text: Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*, 8th ed. Longman Publishers, 2011.

Reader: Terrence Ball and Richard Dagger, *Ideals and Ideologies, A Reader*, 8th ed. Longman, 2011.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Introduction.

- Events, Ideas, theory, philosophy and ideology: reflection
- PERIOD>PROBLEM>PRESCRIPTION**
- MODERN IDEOLOGIES: the decline of feudalism, the commercial and industrial revolutions
- The challenge of change
- Science and reason
- Basic terms: Reactionary to Radical; LEFT, CENTER AND RIGHT
- Relationships between economics, society and politics
- DEMOCRACY; SOCIALISM; FASCISM; ISLAMISM**

TEXT: Chapter 1

Readings: Terrell Carver: Ideology: the career of a concept, Reading 1.1
Alexis De Tocqueville: Reading 2.7

Tapes/CDs in Audio/Visual: Galileo: the Challenge of Reason, Medieval England: The Peasants' Revolt, The Industrial Revolution in England.

A: Exception #1-NATIONALISM

-Nationalism: the Theory of the Modern State

-Reaction to medieval anarchy

-THE STATE IS THE SOLUTION!

-Origin, Nature and Purpose of the State

-Individual and the State

-Power and the State

-Forms of the State: Tribes>Empires>City-States>Feudalism>**NATION-STATE**>World-State

-Who are you? What are you? What will you die for?

-Examples: Spain, France and England: 15th and 16th centuries

-Failed States 21st century: Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan...

READINGS: Hobbes: The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation, Reading 3.1

B: Exception #2- ANARCHISM

-Anarchism: Call for the End of the State

-THE STATE IS THE PROBLEM!

- **Reaction** to inequality and oppression: Rejection of government

-Roads to anarchism: Pacifism and Violence

-Social anarchism and Individual anarchism

-William Godwin, P. J. Proudhon, M. Bakunin, Emma Goldman, Max Stirner

-"If I can't dance I don't want any part of your revolution!"

Reading: Emma Goldman: *Anarchism: What it Really Stands For*, Reading 6.6

2. Democracy

-Reaction to Monarchy, Aristocracy and Oppression: **government by the People**

-ROOTS: IDEA OF A REPUBLIC: Athens>Rome

-Principles and Origins: **Equality, Individualism, Liberty, Participation**

-Views on Early Democracy: Pericles, Plato, Aristotle, Stoics and Cicero

-Confidence in the People

-RRR: Renaissance, Republicanism, Reformation: The Ideal recovered

TEXT: Chapter 2

READINGS: Pericles: Funeral Oration, Reading 2.2

Aristotle: Democratic Judgment, Reading 2.3

John Adams: What is a Republic, Reading 2.5

Bill of Rights: Reading 2.6

Films: Emperor and Slave: Philosophy of Stoicism, The Puritan Revolution

3. Liberal Democracy

A. Individualism

- Natural Law and the Social Contract: Hobbes, Locke, Jefferson and Rousseau
- Levellers: the Agreement of the People
- The People and the State
- Rights of the people
- Secularism!

**READINGS: Army Debates Over the Agreement of the People (handout),
T. Paine, Reading**

B. Democracy *and* Capitalism: a marriage of convenience?

- Liberty **and** Equality?
- Freedom **for** what? **From** what?
- Capitalism v. Mercantilism: the economic expression of individualism and liberty
- Economics to social policy: Adam Smith, Laissez-faire
- Negative Freedom vs. Positive Freedom
- Manchester Liberals; freedom from government
- Spencer and Sumner: rugged individualism
- Case in Point: The Irish Famine
- Neo-classical democratic thought: **Fear of the People**
- Madison and Calhoun
- Reaction to Liberal Democracy: Social Democracy**
- Utilitarianism not Natural Law
- Social Democracy: J.S. Mill, T.H. Green, J. Dewey
- Progressives and a **New Deal**
- Liberty and Equality: the continuing dilemma
- Conservatives and Liberals

TEXT: Chapter 3

**READINGS: Adam Smith: Private Profit, Public Good, Reading 3.6
William Graham Sumner: What Social Classes Owe to Each Other, Reading 3.9
T.H. Green, Positive Freedom, Reading 3.10**

Tapes/CDs: The Changing World of Charles Dickens,

TEST ON CHAPS. 1-3, RELATED READINGS AND LECTURES
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4. Conservatism

- To preserve the best of the old and provide **STABILITY**
- An end to revolutions
- Reaction of the **RIGHT**
- Edmund Burke in England
- Madison and Calhoun in the US
- Relative conservatives in the 20-21st centuries

-Economic Conservatives, Social Conservatives

TEXT: Chapter 4

Readings: Edmund Burke: Reflections on the Revolution in France, “Society, Reverence and the “True Natural Aristocracy”, Reading 4.1

Tapes/CDs: Man and the State: Burke and Paine (4726)

5. Socialism and Marxism

A. Socialism

-PROPERTY IS THE PROBLEM!

-Reaction to inequality and oppression: **correction of the economy**

-Economic equality

-Early visions of socialism: Plato, Early Christians, Diggers

-Violent Socialism: Babeuf

-Utopian Socialism: Saint-Simon, R. Owen

-Democratic Socialism: Fabians

READINGS: Robert Owen: Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark, Reading 5.2

B. Marxism

-*Scientific* Socialism: history, economics, class struggle

-Economic Determinism

-Dialectical Materialism and Hegel

-Class Consciousness

-Revolution

-Dictatorship of the Proletariat

-Withering Away of the State

-Communism

-Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky and Mao

TEXT: CHAPTERS 5 and 6

READINGS: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: The Communist Manifesto, Reading 5.3

Eduard Bernstein: Evolutionary Socialism, Reading 6.1

<p>TEST ON CHAPS. 4-6, LECTURES AND RELATED READINGS</p>

6. Fascism and Nazism

-Reaction to the "failures" of democracy and socialism

-Irrationalism and myth

-Statism

-Totalitarianism

- Militarism
- Hyper-nationalism and Tribalism
- Racism: The Volk and Aryans
- Fascism in Italy: Mussolini
- National Socialism (NAZIS) in Germany: Hitler

READINGS: Benito Mussolini: The Doctrine of Fascism, Reading 7.2
Adolf Hitler: Mein Kampf, *Nation and Race*, Reading 7.4

TEXT: CHAPTER 7

7. Ideologies in the Late 20th -21st Centuries

- Liberation Theology in South America (Christianity **and** Marxism)
- Tribalism and Ethnic Cleansing: Afghanistan, Burundi and Rwanda, Former Yugoslavia
- Feminism and Gay Liberation
- ISLAMISM**

TEXT: CHAPTERS 8 and 10

READINGS: Sayyid Qutb, Milestones, Reading 10.1
Osama bin Laden, *et al.*, :*Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders*, Reading 10.3

TEST ON CHAPS. 7, 8 and 10, LECTURES AND RELATED READINGS
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