

Political Ideologies (POL S 2300-001)

Autumn 2007
Ph.D.
T, H 9:10-10:30
FAMB 202

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Course Description and Objectives

In the form of liberalism, conservatism, socialism, etc., ideology works to translate ideas (about how the world *is* and *should be*) into action (political platforms and policies). At their most refined, these political ideologies offer us a tool with which to engage the status quo, and as such are indispensable to political, and perhaps, everyday life. However, an ideology can also blind its holder into seeing the world in a single, one-dimensional way.

The objectives of this course are several-fold. The first and foremost is **to enable and encourage “political thinking,”** i.e. a reflective stance toward the world that enables a person to reflect on and participate in politics. Political *theory* is where we think deeply about political principles and philosophies. Political *praxis* is where we apply political theory to reality and feed practical politics back into philosophy. This is difficult; in this class you may be exercising muscles atrophied or undeveloped.

Studying the political philosophy assigned in this course will enable you **to critically engage the platforms and policies** of American political parties to judge to what degree they reflect the philosophy that supposedly orients them.

In addition, studying this philosophy will enable you **to think more clearly about the foundational premises** of American political institutions and practices. Finally, you will learn **more about the ideology to which you subscribe**. But you will *also* be asked **to see political phenomena through different lenses**, and to be able to articulate the strengths and weaknesses of various ideologies.

Required Texts (at the University Bookstore):

- Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal, 6th Edition*, (Pearson Longman, 2006)
- Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, eds., *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader, 6th Edition*, (Pearson Longman, 2006)
- selected readings on reserve at Marriott Library: most are on e-reserve

Course Requirements and Policies

Grade Distribution

Your grade will be calculated on the following assignments:

Quiz 1 (9/11)	20%
Quiz 2 (9/25)	20%
Quiz 3 (10/23)	20%
Quiz 4 (11/6)	20%
Quiz 5 (11/27)	20%
Quiz 6 (12/13)	20%

“But professor, that adds up to 120%!” you may say. We will drop your lowest quiz score when calculating your final grade.

Make-up policy: In order to take a quiz on a date other than that indicated in the syllabus, you must make arrangements and reschedule it with your TA *prior* to missing the deadline or discussion. If you have an emergency before a quiz, notify the professor and TA as soon as possible (by phone and e-mail).

Cheating and plagiarism insult both your and my intelligence, and offenders *will be failed for the course*. The University’s policies pursuant to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be observed and enforced in this class. It is your responsibility to know these rules, and to know the definitions of cheating and plagiarism!

The Dept. of Political Science seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union, 581-5020 (V/TDD), www.disability.utah.edu. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Schedule

Note: 1) Reading assignments are to be **finished by the date** they appear on the Schedule.

2) “Ball and Dagger text” refers to the bluish book, *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*; all other readings (unless on reserve) are in the greenish book, *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader*.

Week 1: Introduction, IDEOLOGY

8/21: Ideology, the concept

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger text, Chap 1

8/23: Ideology and Irony

- Les Paul Thiele, “Ideology and Irony” (*on reserve*)

Week 2: DEMOCRACY

8/28: Intro to Democracy: Then and Now

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger text, Chap 2

8/30: Ancients

Reading:

- Pericles, “Funeral Oration”
- Aristotle, “Democratic Judgment and the ‘Middling’ Constitution”

Week 3: DEMOCRACY, cont.

9/4: Classical theory and the Democratic Ideal

Reading:

- John Stuart Mill, “Democratic Participation and Political Education”

9/6: Democratic republicanism

Reading:

- Niccolò Machiavelli, “What’s Wrong with Princely Rule?”
- Alexis De Tocqueville, “Democracy and Equality”

Week 4: LIBERALISM, classical

9/11: **QUIZ 1**, Intro to liberalism then and now

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger text, Chap 3

9/13: Hobbes

Reading:

- Thomas Hobbes, “The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation”

Week 5: LIBERALISM, classical cont.

9/18: Locke

Reading:

- John Locke, “Toleration and Government”

9/20: Mill, Social Freedom, and Individuality

Reading:

- John Stuart Mill, “Liberty and Individuality”

Week 6: LIBERALISM, neo-classical

9/25: **QUIZ 2**, Smith and Economic Freedom

Reading:

- Adam Smith, “Private Profit, Public Good”

9/27: Social Darwinism and Modern Libertarianism

Reading:

- William Graham Sumner, “According to the Fitness of Things”
- Donald Allen, “Paternalism vs. Democracy”
- Murray Rothbard, “Libertarian Anarchism”

Week 7: LIBERALISM, welfare

10/2: Welfare Liberalism

Reading:

- T. H. Green, “Liberalism and Positive Freedom”

10/4: Communitarianism

Reading:

- Philip Selznick, “The Communitarian Persuasion”

Week 8: FALL BREAK, no class 10/8-12

Week 9: CONSERVATISM, Classical

10/16: Intro to Conservatism Past and Present

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger text, Chap 4

10/18: Classical European

Reading:

- Edmund Burke, “Society, Reverence, and the ‘True Natural Aristocracy’”

Week 10: CONSERVATISM, Modern

10/23: **QUIZ 3**, Modern European

Reading:

- Michael Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative”

10/25: The American Cultural Argument: Protestant Ethic in Decline

Reading:

- Robert Bork, “Modern Liberalism and Cultural Decline”
- Irving Kristol, “‘When Virtue Loses All Her Loveliness’--Some Reflections on Capitalism and ‘The Free Society’” (*on reserve*)

Week 11: CONSERVATISM, Modern American

10/30: Mediating Structures: Letting Civil Society Work

Reading:

- John Neuhaus and Peter Berger, “To Empower the People: The Role of Mediating Structures in Public Policy” (*on reserve*)

11/1: Neo-Conservatism

Reading:

- Irving Kristol, “The Neo-Conservative Persuasion”

Week 12: SOCIALISM

11/6: **QUIZ 4**, Socialism and Communism, Intro

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger text, Chap 5

11/8: American socialism as an extension of democracy

Reading:

- Michael Walzer, “Town Meetings and Workers’ Control”

Week 13: COMMUNISM

11/13: Marx and Engels

Reading:

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “The Communist Manifesto”
- Marx, “On the Materialist Conception of History”

11/15: Reform or Revolution?

Reading:

- Eduard Bernstein, “Evolutionary Socialism”
- V.I. Lenin, “Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution”

Week 14: ENVIRONMENTALISM

11/20: Intro and History

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger text, Chap 9
- Robyn Eckersley, “Exploring the Environmental Spectrum” (*on reserve*)

11/22: Thanksgiving Holiday, NO CLASS

Week 15: ENVIRONMENTALISM, cont.

11/27: **QUIZ 5**

11/29: The Land Ethic, Mr. Wendell

Reading:

- Aldo Leopold, “The Land Ethic”

- Wendell Berry, “Getting Along with Nature”

Week 16: FASCISM and CONCLUSION

12/4: Introduction to Fascism, exemplars

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger Text, Chap. 7
- Benito Mussolini, “The Doctrine of Fascism”
- Alfredo Rocco, “The Political Theory of Fascism”

12/6: Conclusion and Discussion

Reading:

- Ball and Dagger Text, Chap. 10

QUIZ 6: Thursday 12/13, 8 am