

## CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEAS

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Office hours: Wednesdays 9-11, & by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION.

Politics is in large part a struggle over ideas. In the modern era, ideas such as freedom, equality, and democracy have enjoyed almost universal support. And yet, political struggle remains. This may be because this shared commitment to these ideas conceals radical disagreement about their meaning. Defining such cherished political ideals, providing content to these nebulous and essentially contested concepts, may be the most fundamental – if far from the most visible – dimension of politics.

Ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, feminism, environmentalism, and nationalism all attempt to provide definitions of these concepts and to use these definitions to prescribe an order for human activity. In this course, we will examine the basic principles of each of these ideologies, comparing their relative strengths and weaknesses as we go. In so doing, we will also explore the role of ideology in American politics today and our responsibilities as citizens. Your assignments in this class will allow you to practice some of the most crucial (and often crucially neglected) skills required of engaged citizens. You will be tested on your ability to comprehend the ideas we are encountering as well as your ability to apply them in persuasive written arguments.

To take this class, you must also register for the accompanying 1-credit writing practicum (POLS 388-01).

### REQUIRED TEXT.

Norman S. Love, *Dogmas & Dreams*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (CQ Press).

### ASSIGNMENTS.

You are required to attend each class period having *carefully* prepared the assigned reading. I will give quizzes only when it becomes clear that you are not doing the reading (or not doing it carefully). *Always bring the readings to class.*

Because this course satisfies a writing requirement, and because writing always improves with practice and revision, you will also be required to write and revise THREE (3) PAPERS for this class. For each paper, you will produce and submit both a first draft and a final draft. *You will be graded on each draft.*

Each paper should be in the neighborhood of 2,500 words (which is about 7 pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12pt font). Papers of fewer than 2,000 will not be counted as satisfying the assignment; papers of over 3,000 words should be edited. All told, this course requires that you produce approximately FORTY (40) WRITTEN PAGES.

Unless prearranged with the instructor AT LEAST 24 HOURS in advance, each assignment must be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) BY 12 NOON ON THE DAY THAT IT IS DUE. Late work will be penalized one (1) full letter grade for each day late. It is your responsibility to ensure that the paper is correctly uploaded to the website. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class.

www.turnitin.com class ID: 1433048  
Password: cpi6

### DUE DATES.

Paper 1, Rough Draft: Monday, Feb 13  
Paper 1, Final Draft: Wednesday, Feb 22

Paper 2, Rough Draft: Monday, Mar 27  
Paper 2, Final Draft: Wednesday, Apr 5

Paper 3, Rough Draft: Friday, Apr 28  
Paper 3, Final Draft: TBA

## GRADES.

Each FIRST DRAFT will count for **10%** of your final grade  
Each FINAL DRAFT will count for **20%** of your final grade  
ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION will count for **10%** of your final grade

## HONOR CODE.

Students are obliged to abide by the Tulane University Honor Code. Violations will not be taken lightly. If you have *any* questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask the professor.

## COURSE SCHEDULE.

W Jan 18 Greetings. What is ideology?

### LIBERALISM

#### **Individualism, Freedom, and Self Government**

F Jan 20 Locke, *Treatise of Civil Government*  
M Jan 23 Mill, *On Liberty*  
W Jan 25 Federalist Papers nos. 10 & 51

#### **Classical vs. Welfare State Liberalism**

F Jan 27 Green, "Lecture on Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract"  
M Jan 30 Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*

### CONSERVATISM

#### **Disposition or Creed?**

W Feb 1 Oakeshott, "On Being Conservative"  
F Feb 3 Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

#### **Contemporary Conservatism**

M Feb 6 Bloom, "The Democratization of the University"  
W Feb 8 Schlafly, *The Power of the Positive Woman*  
F Feb 10 Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion: What it was, and what it is"

#### **M FEB 13 ROUGH DRAFT #1 DUE**

Read George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language" [web]

### SOCIALISM & COMMUNISM

#### **History and Class Struggle**

W Feb 15 Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*  
F Feb 17 Marx, "Estranged Labor"

#### **Leftwing and Rightwing Revisionism**

M FEB 20 Lenin, *State & Revolution* and *Imperialism*  
W Feb 22 Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism*

#### **FINAL DRAFT #1 DUE**

#### **A New Left?**

F Feb 24 Hayden & Flacks, "The Port Huron Statement at 40"

#### **FEB 26 - MAR 5 SPRING BREAK**

### ANARCHISM

#### **What is Anarchism?**

M Mar 6 Goldman, "Anarchism: What It Really Stands For"

#### **Individualist and Collective Anarchism**

W Mar 8 Thoreau, "Essay on Civil Disobedience"

- F Mar 10 Kropotkin, *Mutual Aid*  
M Mar 13 Bakunin, *Scientific Anarchism*

## FASCISM

### Fascist Foundations

- W Mar 15 Mussolini, *Fascism: Doctrine and Institutions*  
F Mar 17 Hitler, *Mein Kampf*

### American Fascism

- M Mar 20 Macdonald, *The Turner Diaries*  
Moser, "Age of Rage: Young Extremists Find New Targets – and New Recruits"  
W Mar 22 Duke, "America is at the Crossroads" [at [www2.davidduke.com/index.php?p=22](http://www2.davidduke.com/index.php?p=22)]  
F Mar 24 TBA

**M MAR 27 ROUGH DRAFT #2 DUE**

## FEMINISM

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Waves

- W Mar 29 Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*  
Friedan, "Our Revolution is Unique"  
F MAR 31 Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism"

### A 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave

- M Apr 3 Wittig, "One is not Born a Woman"  
Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, and Sex"  
W Apr 5 Anzaldúa, "*La Conciencia de la Mestiza*"  
Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes' Revisited:"

**FINAL PAPER #2 DUE**

## ENVIRONMENTALISM & ECOLOGY

- F Apr 7 Emerson, "Nature"  
Carson, *Silent Spring*  
M Apr 10 Gore, *Earth in the Balance*  
Kelly, "Thinking Green!"  
W Apr 12 Boochkin and Foreman, *Defending the Earth*  
Shiva, *Stolen Harvest*  
F APR 14 NO CLASS

## NATIONALISM & GLOBALIZATION

- M Apr 17 Joseph Mazzini, *The Duties of Man*  
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*  
W Apr 19 Ohmae, *The End of the Nation State*  
Nyang, *Religion and the Maintenance of Boundaries*  
F Apr 21 Edward W. Said, "Origins of Terrorism"  
M Apr 24 Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?"  
Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld"  
W Apr 26 Fred Dallmayr, "Globalization: Curse or Promise?"  
**F APR 28 ROUGH #3 DUE**

FINAL PAPER DUE TBA