

POLS 225, Autumn 2006

## MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Room 04, MW 10:30 am–11:55 pm

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Office hours: T, 1-2 pm; W, 1–3 pm; by appt.

This course is a survey of modern and contemporary political ideologies and worldviews. It begins with an exploration of the term “ideology” and its importance to the study and practice of politics. How are ideas composed to form ideologies which in turn structure the world for us? Are ideologies only a modern phenomenon? We see how the key concepts of politics—for instance, freedom, equality, justice, democracy, power, citizen—are framed within each ideology we encounter, en route to figuring out how each ideology then shapes the very domain of politics, and prescribes for us the meaning of our lives, our contentions and contestations, and our basic human and political struggles. The course also hopes to make us more attentive in our use of words, labels and categories in politics, to see the nuances within the terms we employ in our everyday lives, appreciating their many interpretations and histories, and to rise to the challenge and the responsibility that comes with this appreciation.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Nancy S. Love, *Dogmas & Dreams*, 3rd Edition (CQ Press).

### EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

#### *Attendance and Preparation*

You are required to attend class having carefully prepared the assigned reading for the day. You must bring the text to class.

Active class participation is not only required, it is expected. The point is not to have understood everything before coming to class—your treasure is the questions, difficulties and issues that arise from what is read, because they eventually determine what course the class will take.

I will follow the college attendance policy, very strictly. Two unexcused absences will earn you an official warning. Three unexcused absences shall result in suspension. You must not be absent on the days you are the scribe, for that will automatically get you an F on that part of the course requirements.

Tardiness is disrespectful, and counts against you.

#### *Written Work*

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.

First, you will keep a meticulous journal throughout the semester to be handed in to me every two weeks, as mentioned on the syllabus, and then at the end of the semester, where you will trace a concept of your choice through different ideologies. You can map a set of concerns you have and see how different ideologies embody, answer or respond to it. The journal will contain your responses to, and reflections on the readings. But there is something you must keep in mind here. Imagine the journal as your notes to be used for your papers (see below). The point is to explore

possibilities of forms of interpretation. (Let the course goals guide you here, in the form of questions to be addressed.)

You will be required to write two shorter papers (5-7 pages) and a longer final paper (12-14 pages). These are primarily exegetical and imaginative papers that will require your use of the texts, your journals, the films, and class discussion. These are NOT research papers, hence you will not be required to consult any other sources apart from those stated. *I will provide specific paper instructions and a choice of topics/questions to be addressed.*

### *Films*

Where possible, I have assigned films to supplement our readings. Please note down the relevant weeks, and we will work together to find a time that works for everyone. This will probably be an evening outside of normal class time, if the film is a full-length feature.

For course policies on Academic Honesty and Religious Holidays, please refer to the SRC Catalogue, pp. 31-33. For issues of learning skills, and subsequent accommodations, please get in touch with me, and also contact Rebecca Fiske (rebecca@simons-rock.edu).

### *A sketch of your grade composition*

Participation, Films, etc.	20%
Written work	80%
Journal	20%
Papers	60%

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

(All readings, except those marked with an asterisk, are in the assigned reader. Others will be placed on electronic reserve.) The reader is available at the Hart Bookstore. The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus—you will be consulted for, and informed of, changes made.

Monday, 28 August	Greetings! What is Ideology?
Wednesday, 30 August	NO CLASS (will reschedule) *Leslie Paul Thiele, "Ideology and Irony" *Introduction to <i>Dogmas &amp; Dreams</i>
<b><i>LIBERALISM</i></b>	
Monday, 4 September	John Locke, "Treatise of Civil Government"
Wednesday, 6 September	John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty" <i>The Federalist Papers</i> , #10 and #51
Monday, 11 September	Thomas Hill Green, "Lecture on Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract" Franklin D. Roosevelt, "The Continuing Struggle for Liberalism"
Wednesday, 13 September	Milton Friedman, "Capitalism and Freedom" (Film—TBA) Isaac Kramnick, "Equal Opportunity and the 'Race of Life'" <b><i>Journal Due</i></b>

### **CONSERVATISM**

Monday, 18 September	Michael Oakeshott, "On Being Conservative"
Wednesday, 20 September	Edmund Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France"
Monday, 25 September	Irving Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion: What it was, & what it is"
	Allan Bloom, "The Democratization of the University"
Wednesday, 27 September	Phyllis Schlafly, The Power of the Positive Woman
	<b><i>Journal Due</i></b>

### **SOCIALISM & COMMUNISM**

Monday, 2 October	Charles Fourier, "Utopian Socialism"
Wednesday, 4 October	Karl Marx, "Estranged Labor"
	Karl Marx, "Value, Price, and Profit"
	(Film: <i>Marx for Beginners</i> )
Friday, 6 October	<b><i>First Paper Due</i></b>
Monday, 9 October	NO CLASS—Fall Break
Wednesday, 11 October	NO CLASS—Fall Break
Monday, 16 October	Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto"
	(Film: <i>Reds/Ten Days that Shook the World</i> )
Wednesday, 18 October	V.I. Lenin, "State and Revolution"
	V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"
	<b><i>Journal Due</i></b>
Monday, 23 October	Eduard Bernstein, "Evolutionary Socialism"
Wednesday, 25 October	Tom Hayden & Dick Flacks, "The Port Huron Statement at 40"
	(Film: <i>Rebels with a Cause</i> )
	Also: a panel discussion on SDS sometime this week

### **ANARCHISM**

Monday, 30 October	Henry David Thoreau, "Essay on Civil Disobedience"
	Emma Goldman, "Anarchism: What It Really Stands For"
	Film: TBA
Wednesday, 1 November	Petyr Kropotkin, "Mutual Aid"
	Mikhail Bakunin, "Scientific Anarchism"
	<b><i>Journal Due</i></b>

### **FASCISM**

*Note: We will have an Italian documentary film-maker visiting campus. We may be part of hosting her screening and discussion of her documentary on holocaust survivors, so some of the timing of this section's readings may alter.*

Monday, 6 November	Benito Mussolini, "Fascism: Doctrine and Institutions"
	Adolf Hitler, from <i>Mein Kampf</i>
Wednesday, 8 November	Andrew Macdonald, from <i>The Turner Diaries</i>
	Bob Moser, "Age of Rage: Young Extremists Find New Targets - and New Recruits"
	Film: TBA
Friday, 10 November	<b><i>Second Paper Due</i></b>

### ***FEMINISM***

Monday, 13 November	Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> Betty Friedan, "Our Revolution is Unique" Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union"
Wednesday, 15 November	Monique Wittig, "One Is Not Born a Woman" Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference"
Monday, 20 November	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, 22 November	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Break
Monday, 27 November	Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness" Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles" <b><i>Journal Due</i></b>

### ***ENVIRONMENTALISM & ECOLOGY***

Wednesday, 29 November	Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring" Al Gore, "Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit" Petra Kelly, "Thinking Green!" Film: TBA
Monday, 4 December	Murray Bookchin and Dave Foreman, "Defending the Earth: A Dialogue between Murray Bookchin and Dave Forman" Vandana Shiva, "Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply"

### ***NATIONALISM & GLOBALISATION***

Wednesday, 6 December	Joseph Mazzini, "The Duties of Man" Benedict Anderson, "Imagined Communities, Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism" Kenichi Ohmae, "The End of the Nation State: The Rise of Regional Economies" <b><i>Journal Due</i></b>
Monday, 11 December	Sulayman Nyang, "Religion and the Maintenance of Boundaries: An Islamic View" Edward W. Said, "Origins of Terrorism"
Wednesday, 13 December	Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld" Fred Dallmayr, "Globalization: Curse or Promise?"
Thursday, 21 December	<b><i>Final Paper Due</i></b>