

POLS 225, Autumn 2008

MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Room 04, MW 10:30 am — 11:55 pm

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Office hours: M, 4-5 pm, T, 9-11 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 that 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 TEXTS

Love, Nancy. *Dogmas & Dreams: A Reader in Modern Political Ideologies*. CQ Press, 3rd Edition, 2005 (all selections are from this unless otherwise stated)

Freedman, Michael. *Reassessing Political Ideologies: The Durability of Dissent*. Routledge; October 2001 (Referred to in the schedule as *RPI*)

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.

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, when you will trace a concept of your choice through different ideologies (as part of a final exam). 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. I'd encourage you to explore possibilities of forms of interpretation. (Let the course goals guide you here, in the form of questions to be addressed.)

Second, you will be required to take a midterm test and a final.

Scrap Book

Alongside the journal, you will also keep a scrapbook that will focus on how certain ideologies are represented, recounted, imaged, in contemporary media, especially print media. This will be our way of keeping tabs on American political discourse during, before, and after the elections.

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

Class Participation, Films, etc.	10%
Journal + Scrapbook + Final Project	45%
Tests	45%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday, 25 August	Greetings! What is Ideology?
Wednesday, 27 August	NO CLASS (will re-schedule)

LIBERALISM

Monday, 1 September	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 1 (Freedden) <i>Dogmas & Dreams</i> , "Introduction"
Wednesday, 3 September	John Locke, "Treatise of Civil Government"
Thursday, 4 September or Friday, 5 September	Make-up Session John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty" <i>The Federalist Papers</i> , #10 and #51
Monday, 8 September	Thomas Hill Green, "Lecture on Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract" Franklin D. Roosevelt, "The Continuing Struggle for Liberalism"
Wednesday, 10 September	Milton Friedman, "Capitalism and Freedom" Isaac Kramnick, "Equal Opportunity and the 'Race of Life'"
Monday, 15 September	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 2 (Gaus) <i>Scrapbook + Journal Due</i>

CONSERVATISM

Wednesday, 17 September	Michael Oakeshott, "On Being Conservative"
Monday, 22 September	Edmund Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France"
Wednesday, 24 September	Irving Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion: What it was, & what it is"
	Allan Bloom, "The Democratization of the University"
Monday, 29 September	Phyllis Schlafly, "The Power of the Positive Woman"
	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 5 (Eccleshall)
	<i>Scrapbook + Journal Due</i>

SOCIALISM & COMMUNISM

Wednesday, 1 October	Charles Fourier, "Utopian Socialism"
	Karl Marx, "Estranged Labor"
Monday, 6 October	NO CLASS—Fall Break
Wednesday, 8 October	NO CLASS—Fall Break
Monday, 13 October	Karl Marx, "Value, Price, and Profit"
	Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto"
Wednesday, 15 October	V.I. Lenin, "State and Revolution"
	V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"
	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 3 (Carver)
Monday, 20 October	Eduard Bernstein, "Evolutionary Socialism"
	Tom Hayden & Dick Flacks, "The Port Huron Statement at 40"
	(Film: <i>Rebels with a Cause</i>)
	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 4 (Sassoon)
	<i>Scrapbook + Journal Due</i>

ANARCHISM

Wednesday, 22 October	Henry David Thoreau, "Essay on Civil Disobedience"
	Emma Goldman, "Anarchism: What It Really Stands For"
Monday, 27 October	Petyr Kropotkin, "Mutual Aid"
	Mikhail Bakunin, "Scientific Anarchism"
Wednesday 29 October	<i>MIDTERM TEST</i>

FASCISM

Monday, 3 November	Benito Mussolini, "Fascism: Doctrine and Institutions"
	Adolf Hitler, from <i>Mein Kampf</i>
Wednesday, 5 November	Andrew Macdonald, from <i>The Turner Diaries</i>
	Bob Moser, "Age of Rage: Young Extremists Find New Targets – and New Recruits"
Monday, 10 November	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 7 (Sternhell)
	<i>RPI</i> , Chapter 8, (Griffin)
	<i>Scrapbook + Journal Due</i>

FEMINISM

Wednesday, 12 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"
Monday, 17 November	Monique Wittig, "One Is Not Born a Woman" Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference"
Wednesday, 19 November	Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness" Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles" <i>RPI</i> , Chapter 10 (Coole)
Monday, 24 November	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, 26 November	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Break
Monday, 1 December	NO CLASS—to be rescheduled
Wednesday, 3 December	NO CLASS—to be rescheduled

ENVIRONMENTALISM & ECOLOGY

Thursday, 4 December or Friday, 5 December	Make-up Session Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring" Al Gore, "Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit" Petra Kelly, "Thinking Green!"
Monday, 8 December	Murray Bookchin and Dave Foreman, "Defending the Earth: A Dialogue between Murray Bookchin and Dave Foerman" Vandana Shiva, "Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply" <i>RPI</i> , Chapter 11 (Meadowcroft)

NATIONALISM & GLOBALISATION

Wednesday, 10 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" Fred Dallmayr, "Globalization: Curse or Promise?" <i>RPI</i> , Chapter 9
Thursday, 11 December	Make-up Session Sulayman Nyang, "Religion and the Maintenance of Boundaries: An Islamic View" Edward W. Said, "Origins of Terrorism" Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld" <i>RPI</i> , Chapter 6
Wednesday, 17 December	<i>Journals + Scrapbook Due/ Final Exam</i>