

PLS 315

Contemporary Ideologies

Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Earl Sheridan
Office: Leutze Hall, 269
Office Hours: T-Th 10-11am; W 2-3
Or by Appointment
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Texts:

Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal, Ball and Dagger

Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader, Ball and Dagger, eds.

Also there will be additional readings on reserve in the library or handed out in class and film may also be utilized.

Course Description

This course is an examination of the major political ideologies of the contemporary world: capitalism (including liberalism and conservatism), communism, democratic socialism, and fascism. We will also touch on such movements as nationalism, feminism, liberation ideologies and "green" politics. Modern and contemporary thinkers and leaders who have helped develop these ideologies and movements such as: Marx, Lenin, Rawls, Hitler, Mussolini, Neibuhr, Mao, Marcuse, Freud, Stalin and others will also be examined. The purpose of the class is to give the student a good understanding of today's ideologies and the people and forces that shape them, and to make sure that students can articulate this understanding.

Course Requirements:

Three exams, each counting 100 points. The final exam will consist of a take home component in which you will be asked to explain a recent event in the perspective of two different ideologies. I will give you more details on the final at a later date. I may also give pop tests to be used as a factor in determining borderline grades. 100 points will be also be assigned on the basis of participation. This 100 points will be assigned as follows: 40 points for attendance, 20 points for class participation, 40 points based on pop tests and pop essays. The hundred points will be added for a possible 400 and divided by four to get your final grade. Make up exams will be given on Reading Day, only with a written acceptable excuse.

Grading:

The grading scale will be as follows:

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
below 60 = F

Attendance

I take attendance. You have three unexcused absences. For each unexcused absence over three, four points will be deducted from your participation grade. Excuses are only granted for serious reasons, such as serious illness, death in the family, court appearances, etc. An excused absence will only be granted with a written excuse. If you are sick you will need a written excuse from a medical person.

Classroom Etiquette

Be in class on time. It is disruptive to have people consistently walking into class after the lecture or discussion has begun. You are expected to be in class the whole period unless you get sick or have made prior arrangements with me. Abuse of this could adversely affect your participation grade. Cell phones should be turned off and texting is not allowed during class. Laptops may be used as long as they are being used on class material. There is to be extraneous conversation during class and any work being done must be on PLS 315. Behavior must be civil and respectful at all times. Violations of classroom etiquette will diminish your participation grade.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to follow the academic honor code (as covered in the UNCW Student Handbook). Academic dishonesty in any form (cheating, plagiarism, etc) will not be tolerated and will severely impact your grade.

Keys to Success

- 1.) **Come to class!**
- 2.) **Read assigned readings.**
- 3.) **Participate (discuss, ask questions, listen)**

Course Outline

What is an Ideology: – Ball and Dagger, Chapter I; Carver “Ideology: The Career of Concept” in Ideals and Ideologies p. 3; Marchak, “Ideology and Social Organization” handout.

Democracy and Liberalism: - Ball and Dagger, Chapter II & III; in Ideals and Ideologies; Hobbes p. 64; Locke, p. 71; Paine, p. 87 Dec. of Ind: p. 91; Smith, p. 97; Mill p. 103; Sumner, p. 1110. Allen p. 118; Selznick p. 127.

Conservatism: - Ball and Dagger, Chapter IV; in Ideals and Ideologies; Burke p. 135; Bork p. 162; Kristol p. 170; Dobson p. 174; Antle p. 183.

FIRST EXAM (tentatively October 1st)

Socialism and Communism: - Ball and Dagger, Chapter V and VI; Ideals and Ideologies More p. 191; Owen p. 198 - Marx and Engels p. 202; Bernstein p. 220; Lenin p. 226; Mao p. 244; Goldman p. 257; Bellamy p. 266.

Fascism: - Ball and Dagger, Chapter VII; Ideals and Ideologies - deGobineau p. 287; Mussolini p. 294; Hitler p. 308. Additional readings.

SECOND EXAM (tentatively November 12th)

Political Ideologies Today and Tomorrow: - Ball and Dagger, Chapter VIII, IX, X; Ideals and Ideologies King p. 328; Biko p. 339; Seneen Falls Declaration p. 361; Frye p. 365; Corvino p. 374; Guitierrez p. 395; Leopold p. 416; Berry p. 427; Foreman p. 435; Evangelical Climate Initiatives p. 447; Osama bin Laden , et. al p. 468.

FINAL EXAM

Tuesday, December 8th (11:30-2:30)

Other Important Dates:

October 6th – no class (Fall Break)

October 8th – no class (Political Science Days)