

**Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus**  
**Humanities Department**

**TEMPLATE**

**POLI206-Political Ideologies**

**Course Description**

POLI 206 A survey and analysis of leading ideologies of the modern world such as anarchism, nationalism, fascism and national socialism, classical liberalism and conservatism, Fabian socialism, Marxism-Leninism, and liberal democracy. Some consideration of current extremist ideologies if both left and right. Examination of the nature and function of ideologies in political movements and in governance. Assessment levels: ENGL101/101A, READ120. Three hours each week. Formerly PS121

**POLI206 fulfills a General Education Program requirement.** For more information, please see [www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened)

**Course Rationale**

The course offers an introduction to political ideologies and the way they are expressed in contemporary political literature. The study of ideologies makes clear the impact that ideas can and do have on the lives of billions of people around the world. A study of ideologies should impress the student with the fact that ideas are often the most potent forces in the political world--ideas as justifications and as unifying banners.

**Course Outcomes**

Upon course completion, a student will be able to:

- Define, describe, and state the significance of the term “ideology.”
- Compare and contrast various ideological positions on the political spectrum.
- Identify the values and assumptions of each of these ideological positions.
- Describe the intellectual origins and historical conditions that have given rise to Democracy, Anarchism, Fascism, Nazism, Socialism, Communism, & Jihadism.
- Examine critically the socio-political impact of these ideologies.

## **Teaching procedure**

Political Ideologies introduces student to major ideologies, which - over the centuries - have been forming social climate and hence have been shaping existing law and economic policies, and vice versa; how moral, technological and economic forces shape ideology. During the class, "classical" texts of the respective ideologies will be discussed in order to understand the roots of ideological and political views of today.

Furthermore, this course will not only explore the ideologies themselves, but it will also explore the source of their appeal, and their practical impact on people's lives. Particular attention is given to the meaning of "ideology" and to its place in contemporary politics, as well as to the emergence of new ideologies and their relationship to social, economic and cultural forces.

We will explore some contemporary ideologies and their stories as they unfolded from the nineteenth century through the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. This historical investigation will be balanced by a close reading of primary documents dealing with the ideologies under investigation. Following questions should be kept in mind as we conduct our investigation:

Finally, we will be making use of selective readings, videos, film, guest speakers and field trips, in an attempt to create an active learning environment. Therefore, attendance and participation are essential. Students will take an active role in searching for evidence, examining viewpoints, analyzing cause and effect, making conjecture and understanding the relevance of political ideologies. Therefore, students must come prepared to discuss questions about each assigned reading.

## **Course Materials**

### **Required Textbook:**

Heywood, Andrew, Political Ideologies: An Introduction . 6<sup>th</sup> ed (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

### **Required Readings:**

**Federalist Papers #10, #39, #51** by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison (available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>)

(you can also find #10 and #51 at [ourdocuments.gov](http://ourdocuments.gov) Just look for Federalist papers in the table of contents that scrolls at the top of the page)

**Man and Socialism** by Ernesto "Che" Guevara (available at <https://www.marxists.org/archive/guevara/1965/03/man-socialism.htm>)

**Doctrine of Fascism** by Alberto Mussolini (available at [faculty.smu.edu/.../THE%20DOCTRINE%..](http://faculty.smu.edu/.../THE%20DOCTRINE%..))

**The Communist Manifesto\*** by Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx

**Mein Kampf\*** by Adolph Hitler

**Road to Serfdom\*** by Friedrich Hayek

Atlas Shrugged\* by Ayn Rand  
The Wretched of the Earth\* by Frantz Fanon

(\* excerpts)

**-Additional readings may be assigned by the instructor.**

### **Suggested Additional Course Readings:**

V for Vendetta by Alan Moore and David Lloyd

It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis

The Emperor by Ryszard Kapuscinski

Homage to Catalonia by George Orwell

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

# **Assessment & Grading Policy**

Students' grade for this course will depend on their ability to demonstrate their understanding and measurement of the course objectives listed on page 2.

## **Grading Policy**

The following grading standard will be used:

5 ideology journals (40 points each).....	200 points
Midterm .....	200 points
Final exam.....	200 points
Active learning (including quizzes) .....	100 points
Final paper .....	100 points
Extra credit.....	<u>TBD (40 points maximum)</u>
<b>Total.....800 points</b>	

**720-800 points=A**

**640-719 points =B**

**560-639 points=C**

**480-559 points=D**

**0-479 points =F**

A	Superior work; student demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of subject matter and course objectives
B	Good; student demonstrates moderately broad knowledge and understanding of course objectives
C	Average; reasonable knowledge and understanding of course objectives
D	Pass without recommendation; minimum knowledge and understanding of course objectives
F	Failure; unacceptable low level of knowledge and understanding of subject matter. F is also for excessive absences, academic dishonesty or misconduct.

## **5 ideology journals (40 points each)....200 points**

After selected chapter readings and class discussions, you will submit a journal to reflect your thoughts about the issue and the discussion. The journal should reflect your understanding of the related material (in other words, what have you learned?), as well as

any opinions you have formed on the issue. This journal can be a first person reflection; no research required. In addition, you can also consider questions you have from the readings or presentations that you do not understand. I will be giving you some prompts for each journal assignment.

- Journals must be typed and double-spaced. You do not need a cover page.
- The journal should be at approximately **1-2** pages, written in first person and does not *require* references or additional research.
- Hard copies only.

Turning in a journal on time in the appropriate format and length gets you 12 “base” points. The rest of the 20 points are based on the quality of writing and thorough exploration of the topic.

**Midterm .....200 points**

**Final exam.....200 points**

The two tests for this class, including the mid-term and the final follow a similar format. Part of the test will be a test of details and terms using multiple choice or cloze items (fill-in-the-blank). The second part of the exams will consist of questions that require research and must have the format of a research paper.

*Please note: All tests will be reviewed in class, but students will not be allowed to keep multiple choice test questions.*

**Active learning (including quizzes) .....100 points**

Completion of in-class assignments is counted toward the participation grade. The in-class assignments include presentations on key concepts, chapter summaries, film reviews, writing exercises, and ‘pop’ quizzes. You should expect a quiz every week based on the assigned readings. Normally, participation exercises are worth five to twenty points (there is no make-up for missed participation exercises). Your participation in discussion is expected. Your engagement will be reflected in your participation grade.

**Final paper .....100 points**

For your final project you need to think about an ideology and how you would apply it to an actual place. Your paper should explain the process for applying the ideology; in other words, how you will implement your ideology. You may work on implementation in a fictional place, apply it to an actual location, or create a new country from an existing one.

In addition, you can do a presentation for 30 extra credit. Your presentation can be done with a partner.

## Extra credit.....TBD

Each extra credit assignment is worth 20 points. It can boost your final point score by up to 40 points.

For example:

Student X has 635 points (C)

Student X earns 32 extra credit points with two extra credit assignments.

Final point total: 667=B (635 + 32= 667).

**You may do more than one extra credit assignment, but there is a 40 point maximum.**

- **This assignment must be typed, double-spaced using standard font. Hand written papers will not be accepted.**
  - **Length should be 2-4 pages, but remember: the better you address the question, the better the score.**
  - **Use MLA or APA Standard documentation for any references.**
- **Option 1** Attend a political rally, lecture, panel discussion, candidate forum or a debate. Write a summary of the views the audience, the questions and your critique of the speaker and/or candidate.
- **Option 2** Movie Presentation- There are several films that illustrate political ideologies, or talk about the major creators of those philosophies. For example:
- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Atlas Shrugged</i>             | <i>Che</i>            |
| <i>The Triumph of the Will</i>    | <i>Reds</i>           |
| <i>The Madness of King George</i> | <i>V for Vendetta</i> |
| <i>The Red Menace</i>             |                       |

Your presentation should be no more than 10 minutes. You need to summarize the plot, **and** describe how the film related to an ideology in class, **and** discuss the motivations of the filmmakers. Movie reviews should be done near the time we cover that ideology in class.

## Attendance policy

Good attendance is essential. Students **who accumulate more than two consecutive absences may be dropped** from the course at the instructor's discretion.

Anyone more than 15 minutes late is considered absent.

**Students with 9 or more total absences cannot get a participation score of more than 70% (C).**

**Students with no more than 3 total absences will automatically get 10 points added to their participation score.**

**Attendance** is a necessary part of this course because much of the test material comes from the class lectures, in addition to the participation assignments.

*There will be 30 class meetings for this course. If you think you will have problems to attend at least 24 of the 30 sessions, you should seriously consider dropping.*

*\*\*Please note: missing one class will have only a minor impact on your attendance score; consider it a personal day. There is no need to present doctor's notes, doctor appointments, etc. for missing a class. There are no excused absences. Missing class is a part of adult life. It is the measure of your resolve to figure out how to make up for missing class: do you have a classmate that you can get notes from? If you missed a participation exercise, do you have a plan for doing extra credit to makeup the missing points? If your car breaks down and you have already missed two classes, what's your 'plan B'? And if you miss a test, there are no make-up exams. **However, as mentioned above, if you see yourself missing six or more classes, you should consider withdrawing.***

### **Make-up policy**

If you have a situation where you can't come to class on a scheduled test date, please inform me beforehand so I can arrange for alternative time to take the test at the Assessment Center. **There are no make-up tests.**

**Late work-** Assignments, papers, etc. are due at the beginning of class on the respective due date. Any papers must be printed. Journal assignments turned in more than 24 hours after the due date will get ½ credit. E-mails and/or attachments will not be accepted.

Reviewing late work slows down the grading process and is not fair to students who turned assignments in on time. *Therefore, in order to be fair to other students, I will not take exams or paper more than 24 hours after the due date.*

### **Academic Integrity**

*\*\*College guidelines for academic integrity are strictly enforced. Copying materials or otherwise using the words, thoughts, audio/video/graphic files of others is plagiarism, which could result in various penalties ranging from project failure to course failure. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.*

### **Important Information Link**

**In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to**

areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College Alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions, please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

## **Classroom Behavior Policies**

### **Please follow these guidelines:**

- ❖ Come to class on time and prepared.
- ❖ Do not invite outside guests without the professor's prior knowledge.
- ❖ Keep the classroom clean and orderly. Food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom.
- ❖ We are in a democratic and diverse culture- that means you may have life or learning experiences that will broaden our understanding of political ideologies and systems. I will expect to hear reasoned and thoughtful insights from you that can contribute to the course. *In order for students to feel comfortable expressing their opinion, it is important to be respectful of other people's ideas, values and beliefs.*
- ❖ Speaking up is encouraged. The only stupid question is the unasked one!
- ❖ Out of respect for all the students, please switch off cell phones during class. If you are an emergency contact, please let me know at the beginning of class, switch your phone to vibrate, excuse yourself if you have to take a call, and take

the call outside. Repeated cell phone use in class will result in an absence.

### **Week 1**

Topic: Introductions, syllabus review

**Reading Assignment for Thursday: Introduction: ideology & ideologies (chapter one)**

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 2: Liberalism and the Federalist Papers #10, #39 and #51**

### **Week 2**

Weekly Topics: liberalism

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday Chapter 3: Conservatism and Introduction of Road to Serfdom by Friedrich Hayek**

### **Week 3**

Weekly Topics: Conservatism and the values of libertarian thinking

## **Journal #1 DUE**

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 4: Socialism and Part 1 (“A spectre is haunting Europe...” Bourgeois and Proletarians) of “The Communist Manifesto” by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels**

### **Week 4**

Weekly Topics: Socialism Part 1: utopian and commune origins  
Origins and development of socialism

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Man and Socialism by Ernesto “Che” Guevara**

### **Week 5**

Weekly Topics: Socialism part 2: Marxism and socialism in the 21st century

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 5-Anarchism**

### **Week 6**

Weekly Topics: Origins and developments of anarchism

## Journal #2 DUE

### Week 7

Weekly Topics: midterm and review

## Midterm Exam (in-class portion)

## Get take-home section of mid-term

**Reading Assignment for next Thursday: Chapter 6 Nationalism and The Doctrine of Fascism by Alberto Mussolini**

### Week 8

Weekly Topics: Nationalism and the politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Fascism and dictatorships: origins and development**

**good bad and ugly: the many sides of nationalism part 1**

**good bad and ugly: the many sides of nationalism part 2**

## Midterm Exam Take home section Due

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 7-Fascism and Mein Kampf by Adolph Hitler**

### Week 9

Weekly Topics: the origins and development of fascist dictatorships

**country selection and partnerships for final presentation**

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 8-Feminism**

### Week 10

Weekly Topic: developments and origins of feminism

## Journal #3 DUE

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 9- Ecologism**

**Check with MyMC Class schedule for YOUR specific deadlines to drop with W for Spring semester**

**Week 11**

Weekly Topic: The ecology movement: origins and development of the ecology movement

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 10 Religious Fundamentalism**

**Week 12**

Weekly Topic: origin and development of religious fundamentalism (if you live in a glass house...)

**Journal #4 DUE**

**Reading Assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 11 Multiculturalism**

**Week 13**

Weekly topic: Multiculturalism: is it a viable political ideology or a tactic?

**Reading assignment for next Tuesday: Chapter 12 Conclusion- the post-ideological age**

**Week 14**

Weekly topic: The end of ideology?

**Journal #5 DUE**

Final paper presentations **All extra credit due**

**Final Paper Due**

**Week 16**

**Final Exam 2:45-4:45**