

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Humanities Department

POLI206-Political Ideologies

Spring, 2015

POLI206-001/CRN-31062

Tue/Thur 2:00-3:15

Room: SN307

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Office hours:

Mondays: 4:00-5:30

Thursdays: 4:00-5:30

(Or by appointment)

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 Behavior Social Science requirement. Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and personal lives. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop two or more of the following competencies: written and oral communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and reasoning, and information literacy. For more information, please see 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 Objectives

It is expected that at the end of the course students will:

- be able to define, critique and compare contemporary political ideologies.
- be able to explain historical and theoretical information about political ideologies that have shaped human societies over several centuries.
- demonstrate an understanding of the major ideologies and their philosophical underpinnings and how they impact twenty-first century politics and global political events.

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 . 5th edn (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

Required Readings:

Federalist Papers #10, 14, 39, 51, 70 by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison

(available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>)

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%..)

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

(* excerpts)

-Additional readings may be assigned by the instructor.

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:

10 ideology journals.....	200 points
Midterm	100 points
Final exam.....	100 points
Class Participation (including quizzes)	200 points
Nation/state Ideology Presentation	200 points
Extra credit.....	<u>TBD</u>
Total:....800 points	

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.

10 ideology journals200 points

After selected chapters readings and class discussions, you will submit a journal to reflect your thoughts about the issue and the discussion. The journal should reflect your understand 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 still don't 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 least **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.

Midterm100 points

Final exam.....100 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 test may consist of short essay (1-3 paragraphs) responses to a series of questions, or true/false clarification statements.

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

Class Participation (including quizzes)200 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 level of participation will be reflected in your participation grade.

Nation/State Ideology Presentation200 points

In the second half of the semester teams of students will adopt an actual country that is on the cusp of regime change within the next 1-10 years (candidate countries include but are not limited to Syria, Iraq, Cuba, North Korea, Central African Republic, Egypt, Venezuela, Mali, Pakistan and portions of Nigeria). You will research the cultural, historical and political background of the country. Students will be charged with choosing an ideology that will be adopted by the new regime. Students will have to provide a rationale for the new ideology using their knowledge of different ideologies and their county's unique characteristics.

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 and getting an excused absence. 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 dies 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 two 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. 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 papers once grading has begun, usually no more than 24 hours after the due date.***

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. *So people can 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.

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.

Cancellation of Classes: Please call **(240) 567-5000** or go to www.montgomerycollege.edu when there is bad weather to learn if the college has cancelled classes. Please note: Montgomery College is not part of the Montgomery County Public Schools and therefore follows a different schedule. In the event that your instructor has a last-minute emergency or illness and cannot come to class, please consult MyMC course bulletin board or your MC email for instructions and assignments.

Academic Support/Learning Disabilities

A student who may need an accommodation due to a disability should make an appointment to see me after class or during office hours. A letter from Disability support Services (Room ST120) authorizing your accommodation will be needed. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify themselves to the Disability Support Service Office; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at: www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm.