

Political Science 110T
Modern Political Ideologies
Fall 2013
HSS 1330
Mon/Wed/Fri, 10:00-10:50

Instructor: Alan Ward (award@ucsd.edu)

Office hours: Wednesday & Friday, 11:00 – 12:00 at the Art of Espresso (or Mandeville Auditorium located next to it; check both locations)

Grader: Benjamin Brewer (bhbrewer@ucsd.edu)

Office hours: Monday & Thursday, 1:30-2:30, location to be announced

Description of the course

This course is about modern political ideologies, with “modern” meaning “after the French Revolution”. Ideologies are a big part of what makes politics exciting and also a big reason why they can be so divisive. They give us a structured way of understanding the political world while simultaneously giving us the passion to try to shape the world in a particular way. If you've ever gotten into a screaming match with someone over politics, a conflict over ideology was probably at the root of the conflict.

As we'll see, ideologies are also messy, confusing, and there's a lot of overlap from one to the other. A course like this could plausibly go in one of two directions. It could be a mishmash of diverse readings with very little conceptual framework, or a structured approach that imposes a framework on the chaos. Each approach has its pros and cons, but this course will take the second, structured approach.

I'll ruin the suspense right off the bat: in this course we'll sequentially look at ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, and fascism) in the following way. First we'll see what lies at the core of the ideology. Then we'll see how and why it splinters into sub-ideologies (which often hate each other)¹. Finally we'll read up on some big thinkers that represent the ideology. Okay, sometimes we won't read. At times we'll watch videos featuring big thinkers.

Purposes of the course

I don't know why you're taking this course and I won't pretend that I do. I assume that you fall in at least one of these categories:

- (1) you want to go to grad school in something related to political theory
- (2) you want to go to law school or to grad school in something not related to political theory
- (3) you need credits and have some sort of plans that don't involve more schooling after you get your undergrad degree
- (4) this course allows you to have a sweet three-day-a-week schedule

I think this course will appeal to you regardless of what category applies to you.

If you're thinking of going to grad school in something that looks like political theory, this course will give you a very good introductory grasp of core concepts that are constantly used. Whereas most of

¹ True story: when I looked into it as an undergrad, it turned out that the Canadian Communist Party and the Canadian Marxist-Leninist Party *hated* each other

your grad school colleagues will talk about these topics in that mumbling “I don't really know what I'm talking about” kind of way, you'll actually be able to speak with some confidence. People will notice. You will be showered with praise and envy

If you're thinking of going to law school or an unrelated grad school program, this course will help you dive into messy arguments and come out with a clear position. It will also help you apply seemingly vague concepts to concrete cases

If your plans don't involve more schooling after you get your degree, this course will help you get more out of your news consumption. I assume you're already something of a critical thinker – getting into UCSD isn't the easiest thing in the world – but now you'll have a language to help you think about what's going on in the news. People will pick up on this. You will be popular at nerdy parties where such things are discussed. (note: “nerd” is the new “cool”)

If you're taking this course for scheduling reasons, I promise to not pull that move where professors say “Let me just finish this point” and talk for an extra seven minutes while you awkwardly shift in your seat as you realize that there's no way you're making it to your next class in time. Your time is important. I understand that.

Academic honesty

Don't cheat.

It's your responsibility to know what “cheating” means. If you have any doubts, ask.

Accommodations

If you need special accommodations please let me know as soon as possible.

Days off

We won't meet on Nov 11, Nov 27 and Nov 29. I will be available on Nov 27 – if you would like to meet, please let me know and I'll be happy to do so.

Grading

First paper: 25%

Second paper: 35%

Final exam: 40%

October 30th during class

December 6th during class

Friday December 13th. At 8:00am. Nice.

Attendance: 0%

Extra credit assignment that's so bad that I'll be the one grading it: 6.7% (**Friday December 13th**)

The grading scheme is designed to assess the following criteria: (1) your ability to regurgitate crucial key facts. If you can't do this, you'll end up looking silly when someone asks you follow-up questions. (2) Your ability to compare broad concepts; (3) your ability to apply concepts to particular cases; (4) your ability to write and express ideas in a clear way. The two papers are designed to assess (2), (3) and (4). The final exam assesses all of these criteria.

What about attendance and participation? Good question! This is an upper division class, not a date. You don't have to hold your end of the conversation if you don't want to. You don't have to show up. You don't even have to let me know that you won't show up. Do I want you there? Yes I do. Trust me, talking to an empty room isn't fun. Do I want you engaged? Definitely. Ever do any public speaking? Then you know how deflating it is when you spot someone flagrantly not paying attention. Well, I do "public speaking" three times a week. It's no fun when I'm going on and on about Lenin and I know that you're playing Candy Crush.

So why show up? Because other than the occasional terrible joke, I make it a point to not waste your time. My lectures tend to be quite dense; I pack in a lot of material. I suggest you attend class. I don't use PowerPoint and I don't podcast, so make a friend to mooch off if you're planning on skipping class.

Lastly: I don't curve grades for individual assignments. If I apply a curve to the class, it will only be to the final grade. I never curve downward; the mathematical grade that emerges from the breakdown listed above is the minimum grade you will receive for the course. FYI, I usually don't curve upward either. I take this stuff incredibly seriously and have high standards.

Readings

Books are expensive. I tried figuring out a way to do this course without having to make you buy anything, but I couldn't think of a sane way of doing so. So I present, without further ado...

Heywood, Andrew. (2012). Political Ideologies: An Introduction. 5th Ed. New York: Palgrave MacMillan

I asked that one copy (or more) be put on reserve in the library. If it's not there, let me know and I'll annoy people so that a copy gets there ASAP.

This course has a TED (<http://ted.ucsd.edu>) website that should be up and running by 09/28/13. That's where I'll either upload the non-textbook readings or provide a link / instructions to the site where you can get them.

I reserve the right to reduce or change (but not increase) the readings.

The following is a *tentative* schedule. I may end up one or two classes ahead or behind. That said, I'm usually pretty good with staying on schedule.

WEEK 0: Basic introduction

Readings: none

WEEK 1: (Sep 30 – Oct 4): What are ideologies? / Liberalism

Readings: Heywood Chapter 2

WEEK 2: (Oct 7 – 11) Liberal thinkers I

Readings: Freeman (on Rawls), Brighouse, Nozick

WEEK 3: (Oct 13 – 18) Liberal thinkers II

Readings: Hayek, Rand (video)

WEEK 4: (Oct 21 – 25) Conservatism

Readings: Heywood Chapter 3, Burke, Oakeshott

WEEK 5: (Oct 28 – Nov 1) Conservatism, **ESSAY #1 DUE**, Socialism

Readings: Murray (video), Heywood Chapter 4, Marx

WEEK 6: (Nov 4 – 8) Socialist thinkers

Readings: Bates (on Gramsci), Lenin, Marcuse

WEEK 7: (Nov 11 – 15) **DAY OFF**, Anarchism

Readings: Heywood Chapter 5, Goldman

WEEK 8: (Nov 18 – 22) Anarchist thinkers

Readings: Malatesta, Rothbard, Chomsky (video)

WEEK 9: (Nov 25 – 29) Fascism, **DAY OFF ON THE 27TH AND 29TH)**

Readings: Heywood Chapter 7

WEEK 10: (Dec 2 – 6) Fascist thinkers, **ESSAY #2 DUE**

Readings: Hitler, Mussolini

FINAL EXAM: Friday December 13 at 8:00am. Room to be announced – apparently we find this out in week 9. P.S.: if you want to take the exam at an earlier date, you need some kind of official and documented (i.e.: medical, legal, etc.) reason. Unless you're planning on breaking your collarbone and scoring a sweet medical note at around that time, please don't book a plane ticket before the exam is over