

Political Science 306 – Contemporary Political Ideology**OVERVIEW**

This course will utilize a two-fold, intertwined approach to the study of ideology. We will examine some of the contemporary ideological paradigms which shape our political environments and which give meaning to our personal, social and political relations. We will consider the ways in which ideologies require specific concepts of what constitutes an individual and what those individuals would relate to each other without any centralized authority.

Ideologies often tend to blend into each other. “What” constitutes specific ideological structures? To what extent is any ideology a construct? We will consider the “why” of ideology. How do ideologies function, are they necessary, could we live in a “post-ideological” world?

This is a course which requires students to be thoughtful about large political questions as well as how as individuals we navigate our way through the world. Your purpose in this class is not to merely memorize discrete pieces of information, but to be able to use the materials we encounter to formulate your own arguments concerning how ideologies function. Ideologies may serve to simplify and interpret complex individual and societal relations. Is that a good thing?

Political Science 306 – Contemporary Political Ideology**REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students are expected to attend all classes, to have read the assigned materials and to participate in class discussion. An excused absence requires written documentation. All medical documentation must be given to me (not merely shown to me) and must include the student's name as well as the name of a medical doctor or clinic with a verifiable phone number. Students who do not regularly attend class will receive an "F" for their class participation grade. Students who miss classes or assignments with a valid excuse should consult with me in order to make up their work in a timely fashion.
Students are allowed two unexcused absences without affecting their grade.
Lateness: Students who arrive more the five minutes late will be marked absent.
2. Written work will consist of two papers and a final exam. In the papers you will not be answering descriptive questions (e.g. - describe the plot of a particular movie). Rather, you will be given a "prompt" offering a particular argument or contention which you must defend or contest.
 - **First Paper** – 3-4 pages (topic to be assigned)
 - **Second Paper** – 3-4 pages on (topic to be assigned)
 - **Final Exam** – will focus on all the materials we have read, discussed and viewed in class. Exam will be open book, open notes. You must take the exam at the scheduled time – there are no make-up exams.

Papers do not require outside research. They are to utilize the course readings we have considered in class. You may also utilize current social and political events as examples of your assertions, but examples are not substitutes for arguments. The course materials constitute your research for the papers – *papers must cite textual evidence* in the proffering of assertions and the formulation of arguments.

Late papers will not be accepted without a grade reduction except for viable medical reasons or death in the family. Absences due to official University activities should be cleared in advance. Written documentation will be required.

The last chance to hand in a paper is with your final exam. If you hand in a viable paper, the lowest grade will be a D, even with deductions. If you do not hand in a paper, the grade is F.

Though you should already know the following, it always bears repeating. *Do not plagiarize.* Do not utilize outside sources, even those that supposedly offer merely objective information. It is highly unlikely you will find suitable arguments for your papers from other sources.

Students are not allowed to use computers during class lectures and discussions.

The procedures for withdrawal from this course will conform to university policies.

Students requiring accommodation for university verified disabilities must notify me in advance.

Political Science 306 – Contemporary Political Ideology**GRADING**

- 20% Class participation and attendance
Participation includes attendance. Excellent participation is when, in the instructor's judgment, the student contributes regularly in ways that demonstrate both an *understanding* of the reading materials *as well as* thoughtful *consideration* of and *reflection* on the issues and themes that are addressed in readings and in class discussion.
- 20% First paper
- 30% Second paper
- 30% Final Exam

COURSE MATERIALS**TEXT**

- Dogmas and Dreams – A Reader in Modern Political Ideologies, Third Edition, ed. Nancy S. Love (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2006)

E-RESERVE

- Readings for which no web address is indicated are on E-Reserve.
- The ***password*** for E-Reserve materials is: **Ideology99**

CONTACT

- OFFICE: SPA 344
- HOURS:
- EMAIL: richard.goldin@csulb.edu

Political Science 306 – Contemporary Political Ideology**ASSIGNMENTS**

Be prepared to discuss the readings on the date of assignment

WEEK 1:

8/23

Introduction

8/25

Festenstein, Kenny (eds.): The Concept of Ideology (E), 1-27

Weeks 2-4: 8/30 - 9/15**Liberalism**

Week 2: 8/30, 9/1

Dogmas and Dreams (DD): 11-66

Weeks 3, 4: 9/6 - 9/15

DD: 67-85

Week 5**Conservatism**

9/20

DD: 123-164

9/22

DD: 165-206

FIRST PAPER DUE 9/29**Weeks 6-7: 9/27 – 10/6****Socialism**

Week 6: 9/27, 9/29

DD: 207-248

Week 7: 10/4, 10/6

DD: 249-345

WEEK 8**Marxist Manifestations**

10/11

Gray: "Post- Liberalism (Chapter: "Philosophy, science and myth in Marxism")" (E)

Morton (ed) The 1917 Collective: "Capitalism And Homophobia..." (E)

Zavarzadeh (ed), Nowlan: "Post-Marxist Queer Theory" (E)

10/13

Tong: "Marxist Feminism" (E)

Omi, Winant "Racial Formation in the United States (Chapter: "Class") (E)

WEEK 9**Anarchism**

10/18

DD: 347-372

10/20

DD: 373-399

WEEK 10**Multiculturalism**

10/25

Young: "Reconsidering American Liberalism

(Chapter: "Race, Gender, Difference, and Equality")" (E)

10/27

Hess (ed) "American Social and Political Thought"

(Chapter: "Pluralism and Multiculturalism") (E)

WEEK 11**Feminism**

11/1

DD: 471-516

11/3

DD: 517-568; Butler: "Gender Trouble" (E)

Political Science 306 – Contemporary Political Ideology**WEEK 12**11/8
11/10**Environmentalism**DD: 569-604
DD: 605-639***SECOND PAPER DUE 11/17*****WEEK 13**11/15
11/17**The End(s) of Ideology**Foucault: "Truth and Power" (E)
Barrett: "The Politics of Truth (Chapter: "History, Discourse., 'Truth' and Power: Foucault's Critique of Ideology")" (E)**WEEK 14****FALL BREAK****WEEK 15**11/29
12/1**The End(s) of Ideology? (cont.)**Freeden: "Political Ideologies in Substance and Method..." (E)
Eccleshall (ed): Lloyd: "The end of ideology?" (E)
Hawkes: "Ideology (Chapter: "Postmodernism")" (E)**WEEK 16:**

12/6, 12/8

REVIEW**WEEK 16:****Final Exam**