

PSC 105.04 – Political Issues

Course Details:

Room: Graham 313
Times: TR 2:00pm–3:15pm

Website: blackboard.uncg.edu

Instructor: Adam Van Liere

Office: Graham 411

Office Hours: TR 12:30pm–2:00pm
& By Appointment

Email: anvanlie@uncg.edu

Course Objectives:

We live in an active and changing world, but how do we explain and evaluate these occurrences? This course is designed to provide you with a basic understanding of the origins and development of some of the most significant political ideologies, the “-isms” of political science. To do this, the course is divided into three primary sections. In the first section we will examine the democratic ideal, liberalism and conservatism. In the second section we will examine authoritarianism, communism, and fascism. Finally, in the last section of the course, we will examine other ideologies—such as liberation ideologies, the “green” movement, and even religion. Along the way we will look at the original writings on which these ideologies are founded and how they continue to influence politics. Some of the questions we will address include what are the historical origins of these ideologies? How have these ideologies changed and evolved over time? And, what are the consequences of these ideologies for understanding politics today and into the future?

Course Requirements:

Exams 45%

- **02/21:** Liberalism & Conservatism (15%)
- **04/01:** Communism & Fascism (15%)
- **05/13:** Other Political Ideologies (15%)

Response Papers 30%

- 6 Response Papers Total, 2 Per Section
- 1.5 Page Minimum, 3 Page Maximum Per Paper

Attendance & Participation 25%

- Will Take Attendance Daily, Allowed 3 Absences For Any Reason
- Everyone Will Help Plan & Lead One Discussion this Semester
- Frequent Participation DOES NOT Guarantee a Better Grade IF that Participation Proves Counterproductive, Disruptive, etc.

Required Texts:

Ball, Terence and Richard Dagger. 2006. *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*. 6th Edition. New York, NY: Longman. (a.k.a. Textbook)

Ball, Terence and Richard Dagger. 2006. *Ideas and Ideologies, A Reader*. 6th Edition. New York, NY: Longman. (a.k.a. Reader)

Additional reading assignments listed on the detailed course schedule will be posted as PDF files on Blackboard. The list of assigned readings is subject to change as the semester progresses. However, I will inform you of any additions or changes in advance.

Other Information and Guidelines:

The Exams: The exams will be held in class on **February 21, April 1, and May 13**. Each exam will be a combination of short answer and essay questions that will test your understanding of important concepts and ideas as well as your ability to apply them to current issues, etc. The exams will not be cumulative insofar as how they deal with specifics of that section of the course. There are overarching concepts, however, that can (and will) make an appearance in multiple sections and exams.

The Response Papers: Throughout this semester you will write 6 response papers—2 for each section of the course—that describe your reaction to various works contained in the reader. For example, you might reflect upon the various understandings of what a democracy is in the readings contained in Part 2 of the reader and how this compares with your preconceived notions of democracy. Or, you might reflect upon a single piece in the reader, like Marx and Engle’s “The Communist Manifesto,” and discuss whether you found it more (or less) persuasive than you thought you would. Within each broad section of the course, the two papers that you write must involve readings from different parts of the reader.

Attending Class: Given the importance placed on discussions in this course, attendance will be taken daily. You are allowed up to three absences for any reason—“excused” or “unexcused.” Each additional absence will automatically drop your final attendance/participation grade by 5%. The lectures and readings are meant to compliment one another, not act as substitutes, therefore very basic outlines of each lecture will be posted on Blackboard prior to that lesson as an aid for taking notes in class. Under no circumstances will I make the actual slides used in class available to students. ***Please note that laptop users must sit in the front row of the classroom.***

Opportunities for Participation: Each student will be part of a group that plans and conducts one of the 9 discussions that are scheduled for this semester. Prior to your turn to lead discussion, your group must touch base with me and describe what you have in mind. Additionally, I am happy to recommend or suggest ideas for discussion if your group is having difficulties putting something together. Outside of the classroom, students may participate by utilizing my office hours or setting up appointments to ask questions about the material or review assignments. Additionally, beginning in February, I will setup times for small, informal meetings with groups of students to talk about international politics, current events, etc.

Policy on Late Work: **Late work will not be accepted.** If you have a commitment scheduled for the day of an assignment that cannot be rescheduled, you should contact me well before that date so we may discuss options. In the event that you miss an assignment because of a documented emergency, you or your agent must contact me as soon as possible so we may discuss options. ***In all instances, you are better off communicating with me sooner rather than waiting until the end of the semester.***

Student Conduct Code: The Academic Integrity Policy of UNCG is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating violations of this policy seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at **academicintegrity.uncg.edu**.

Course Schedule:

- 01/15 – 01/17 *Introduction to PSC 105 & Ideologies*
- Textbook, Chapter 1
 - Reader, Part 1

Liberalism & Conservatism

- 01/22 – 01/29 *The Democratic Ideal*
- Textbook, Chapter 2
- Discussion** (01/29)
- Reader, Part 2
- 01/31 – 02/07 *Liberalism*
- Textbook, Chapter 3
- Discussion** (02/07)
- Reader, Part 3
- 02/12 – 02/19 *Conservatism*
- Textbook, Chapter 4
- Discussion** (02/19)
- Reader, Part 4
- 02/21 **Exam 1**

Communism & Fascism

- 02/26 – 02/28 *The Battle of Ideas*
- In-Class Video & Discussion
- 03/04 – 03/06 *Socialism and Communism: More to Marx*
- Textbook, Chapter 5
- Discussion** (03/06)
- Reader, Part 5
- 03/11 – 03/13 NO CLASS – Spring Break
- 03/18 – 03/20 *Socialism and Communism: After Marx*
- Textbook, Chapter 6
- Discussion** (03/20)
- Reader, Part 6
- 03/25 – 03/27 *Fascism*
- Textbook, Chapter 7
- Discussion** (03/27)
- Reader, Part 7
- 04/01 **Exam 2**

Other Political “Ideologies”

- 04/03 – 04/10 ***Liberation Ideologies & the Politics of Identity***
- Textbook, Chapter 8
- Discussion** (04/10)
- Reader, Part 8
- 04/15 – 04/17 ***“Green” Politics: Ecology as Ideology***
- Textbook, Chapter 9
- Discussion** (04/17)
- Reader, Part 9
- 04/22 – 04/24 ***Islam and Radical Islam***
- Textbook, Chapter 11
- Discussion** (04/24)
- Reader, Part 10
- 04/29 – 05/01 ***Postscript: The Future of Ideologies***
- Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (PDF)
 - Textbook, Chapter 11
 - Reader, Part 11
- 05/13 **Exam 3**