

## PSC 105.04 – Political Issues

### Course Details:

**Room:** Graham 204  
**Times:** TR 2:00 – 3:15pm

**Website:** blackboard.uncg.edu

**Instructor:** Adam Van Liere

**Office:** Graham 412

**Office Hours:** TR 12:30 – 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 60%**

- **02/24:** Democracy, Liberalism & Conservatism (20%)
- **04/02:** Socialism, Communism, & Fascism (20%)
- **05/07:** Other Political Ideologies (20%)

**Response Papers 25%**

- 6 Response Papers Total, 2 Per Section
- See Blackboard for Format Instructions

**Attendance & Participation 15%**

- Will Check Attendance 10 Times Over the Semester
- Will Keep Track of Who Participates, Asks Questions, etc.
- Frequent Participation DOES NOT Guarantee a Better Grade IF that Participation Proves Counterproductive, Disruptive, etc.

### Required Texts:

Ball, Terence and Richard Dagger. 2009. *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: Longman. (a.k.a. Textbook)

Ball, Terence and Richard Dagger. 2009. *Ideas and Ideologies, A Reader*. 7<sup>th</sup> 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 24, April 2, and May 7**. 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 per section of the course—that respond to the various works contained within the Ball & Dagger reader. In each instance you will be asked to 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 given the importance this work has had on shaping politics over the years. The topics for these papers will be posted on Blackboard at the start of each section. The current due dates for all six papers are: **February 3, February 19, March 24, March 31, April 14, and April 23**.

*Attending the Lectures:* Attendance will be taken 10 times over the course of the semester and will form the basis for your overall Attendance/Participation grade, up to 80%. 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:* Although this is primarily a lecture course, I will attempt to include discussions of current events in the class, and I would encourage all of you to follow (political) events that are being covered prominently in the news so that you may participate in these discussions. Throughout the semester we will also break up into small groups to discuss the readings and issues associated with topics we are discussing in class. 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 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](http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu)**.

## Lecture & Reading Schedule:

- 01/20 ***Introduction to PSC 105***
- 01/22 ***Anarchy & Nationalism***
- Hobbes, “The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation” (Reader, Chapter 11)
  - Rothbard, “Libertarian Anarchism” (Reader, Chapter 22)
  - Goldman, “Anarchism: What it Really Stands For” (Reader, Chapter 42)
- 01/27 ***Democracy, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “The Democratic Ideal” (Textbook, Chapter 2)
  - Euripides, “Democracy and Despotism” (Reader, Chapter 2)
  - Pericles, “Funeral Oration” (Reader, Chapter 3)
  - Aristotle, “Democratic Judgment and the ‘Middling’ Constitution” (Reader, Chapter 4)
- 01/29 ***Democracy, Part 2***
- Adams, “What Is a Republic?” (Reader, Chapter 6)
  - “Bill of Rights of the United States” (Reader, Chapter 7)
  - De Tocqueville, “Democracy and Equality” (Reader, Chapter 8)
- 02/03 ***The Structure of Democracy***
- To Be Decided
  - **Response Paper #1 Due**
- 02/05 ***An Introduction to Ideologies***
- Ball & Dagger, “Ideology and Ideologies” (Textbook, Chapter 1)
  - Carver, “Ideology: The Career of a Concept” (Reader, Chapter 1)
  - Economist, “Is America Turning Left?” (PDF)
- 02/10 ***Liberalism, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “Liberalism” (Textbook, Chapter 3)
  - Locke, “Toleration and Government” (Reader, Chapter 12)
  - Paine, “Government, Rights, & the Freedom of Generations” (Reader, Chapter 13)
  - “Declaration of Independence of the United States” (Reader, Chapter 14)
  - Mill, “Liberty and Individuality” (Reader, Chapter 18)
- 02/12 ***Liberalism, Part 2***
- Smith, “Private Profit, Public Good” (Reader, Chapter 16)
  - Kant, “Freedom and Enlightenment” (Reader, Chapter 17)
  - Russett & Oneal, “International Systems: Vicious Circles & Virtuous Circles” (PDF)
- 02/17 ***Conservatism, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “Conservatism” (Textbook, Chapter 4)
  - Burke, “Society, Reverence, and the ‘True Natural Aristocracy’” (Reader, Chapter 24)
- 02/19 ***Conservatism, Part 2***
- Bork, “Modern Liberalism and Cultural Decline” (Reader, Chapter 29)
  - Kristol, “The Neoconservative Persuasion” (Reader, Chapter 30)
  - Dobson, “Standing Strong in a Confused Culture” (Reader, Chapter 31)
  - **Response Paper #2 Due**
- 02/24 **Exam 1: Democracy, Liberalism, & Conservatism**

- 02/26 ***Keynes vs. Hayek, Part 1***
- Commanding Heights, “The Battle of Ideas” (In-Class Video)
- 03/03 ***Keynes vs. Hayek, Part 2***
- Commanding Heights, “The Battle of Ideas” (In-Class Video)
- 03/05 ***Managing The Economy***
- To Be Decided
- 03/10 **Spring Break**
- 03/12 **Spring Break**
- 03/17 ***Socialism & Communism, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “Socialism & Communism: More to Marx” (Textbook, Chapter 5)
  - More, “Utopia” (Reader, Chapter 33)
  - Marx & Engels, “The Communist Manifesto” (Reader, Chapter 35)
  - Marx, “On the Materialist Conception of History” (Reader, Chapter 36)
- 03/19 ***Socialism & Communism, Part 2***
- Ball & Dagger, “Socialism & Communism After Marx” (Textbook, Chapter 6)
  - Lenin, “Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution” (Reader, Chapter 38)
  - Trotsky, “The Permanent Revolution” (Reader, Chapter 39)
  - Zedong, “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship” (Reader, Chapter 40)
- 03/24 ***Dependency Theory***
- To Be Decided
  - **Response Paper #3 Due**
- 03/26 ***Fascism, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “Fascism” (Textbook, Chapter 7)
- 03/31 ***Fascism, Part 2***
- De Gobineau, “Civilization & Race” (Reader, Chapter 45)
  - Mussolini, “The Doctrine of Fascism” (Reader, Chapter 46)
  - Rocco, “The Political Theory of Fascism” (Reader, Chapter 47)
  - Hitler, “Nation and Race” (Reader, Chapter 48)
  - **Response Paper #4 Due**
- 04/02 **Exam 2: Socialism, Communism, & Fascism**
- 04/07 ***Other Political Ideologies?***
- 04/09 ***Liberation Ideologies, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “Liberation Ideologies & the Politics of Identity” (Textbook, Chapter 8)
  - King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (Reader, Chapter 49)
  - Biko, “Black Consciousness & Quest for a True Humanity” (Reader, Chapter 50)
  - Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Women” (Reader, Chapter 51)
  - Frye, “Oppression” (Reader, Chapter 55)
- 04/14 ***Liberation Ideologies, Part 2***
- Corvino, “Homosexuality: Nature and Harm Arguments” (Reader, Chapter 56)
  - Alfred, “Indigenist Pathways of Action and Freedom” (Reader, Chapter 57)
  - Guitierrez, “Liberation Theology” (Reader, Chapter 58)
  - Singer, “All Animals Are Equal” (Reader, Chapter 59)
  - **Response Paper #5 Due**

- 04/16 ***Green Ideologies, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “*Green Politics: Ecology as Ideology*” (Textbook, Chapter 9)
- 04/21 ***Green Ideologies, Part 2***
- Leopold, “The Land Ethic” (Reader, Chapter 60)
  - Berry, “Getting Along with Nature” (Reader, Chapter 61)
  - Foreman, “Putting the Earth First” (Reader, Chapter 62)
- 04/23 ***Islam and Radical Islamism, Part 1***
- Ball & Dagger, “Radical Islam” (Textbook, Chapter 10)
  - Qutb, “Milestones” (Reader, Chapter 65)
  - Khomeini, “The Necessity for Islamic Government” (Reader, Chapter 66)
  - Bin Laden and Others, “Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders” (Reader, Chapter 67)
  - **Response Paper #6 Due**
- 04/28 ***Globalization***
- Micklethwait & Wooldridge, “The Hidden Promise of Globalizations: Liberty Renewed” (Reader, Chapter 68)
  - Buchanan, “Globalization as Economic Treason” (Reader, Chapter 69)
- 04/30 ***The End of History?***
- Ball & Dagger, “Postscript: The Future of Ideology” (Textbook, Chapter 11)
  - Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (PDF)
- 05/07 **Exam 3: Other Political Ideologies (From 3:30 – 6:30pm)**