

Political Science 105: Political Issues

Elizabeth McNamara

Office: Graham 412

Email: e_mcnama@uncg.edu

Textbooks

Terrence Ball and Richard Dagger, *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal* (United States: Addison Wesley Educational Publishers, 2009/10)

Terrence Ball and Richard Dagger, *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* (United States: Addison Wesley Educational Publishers, 2008/9).

Course Outline

“Opinion, whether well or ill founded is the guiding principle in human affairs.”
Letter, June 18, 1788, Alexander Hamilton -- is this True? Is this the explanation for both the intelligent and the incomprehensible statements people make and the actions they take, especially with reference to politics?

In this course we will examine the origins and development of some of the most widespread and significant political ideologies. You will read original source materials by writers from the most prominent and provocative ideological traditions. Together we will study each tradition from its origins to the present and will conduct comparisons among ideologies regarding the theorists' understandings of human beings, their political goals and political institutions.

Some of the questions we will explore are: what were the historical circumstances surrounding the rise of Liberalism (or Conservatism, or Communism etc.)? How has the ideology under study changed and evolved over time? What are core principles? More importantly, what have been some of the political consequences of these ideologies?

As we explore these ideologies we will develop a foundation for debating some of the more controversial political issues of today. Some we will debate are healthcare, stimulus policy, and torture.

Learning Objectives

With this course you will be able to identify, assess and evaluate statements, speeches and written materials from a variety of ideological persuasions. You will be able to offer critiques of these materials regarding their internal consistency and substance. You will be able to argue your agreement or disagreement with the writer's ideas.

Course Requirements

Exploration and comprehension require discussion, therefore, discussion and participation in class are *essential* as is evidence that you have read the required textbook assignments *before* class. Periodically there will be small assignments pertaining to the ideology under discussion. There will be a few pop quizzes, two midterms, each one hour and in class. There are three papers and there is one essay. Lastly, there will be a final **exam**.

In Brief

Discussion/Participation/Quizzes - 30 points

Assignments -check

Mid-Terms - 100 points each

Papers - 35 points each

Final Exam -120 points

Blackboard

A great deal of information about this course can be found on Blackboard (Bb). A detailed reading and test schedule is in the 'Course Information' folder. Specifications regarding the paper requirements can also be found here. Questions to guide reading are found in the 'Assignments.' folder. We will sometimes use the Discussion Board.

Attendance

When you sign up for a course, you should be in class. When you understand the material we need your insights and observations and when you don't we need your questions. Learning is both an individual and a collaborative experience. Also there will be some in class assignments which will count toward your final grade. Come to class. Three absences allowed.

Make Up Policy

If you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time because of health or personal problems, you may take a make-up exam subject to the following conditions:

- 1) You must notify me before the exam. If you are going to miss an exam, you will know ahead of time. Send an email, call, do not use carrier pigeons. If you do not let me know before the exam, you will receive a zero for that exam.
- 2) No one may take more than one make-up exam except under extraordinary circumstances.

Late Assignments

There is a 5% penalty for each day an assignment is turned in late. No assignments will be accepted after one week, except under extraordinary circumstances.

Honor

The university's Academic Integrity Policy is available via the web at: [http://www.uncg.edu80/Leg/Policy/Honor Policy.html](http://www.uncg.edu80/Leg/Policy/Honor%20Policy.html)

Calendar

A calendar of Assignments and exams is on the Blackboard site.