

GVPT 449I Political Ideologies
Spring 2019
TuTh 3:30-4:45pm
Tydings 1102
(Provisional Syllabus)

Instructor: Professor Sujith Kumar

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2 – 3PM, and by appointment

Overview

The word “ideological” has a negative connotation in US politics these days. The term implies rigid dogmatism that hinders pragmatism and compromise. This development probably has more to do with the practitioners of politics, than the concept itself. An ideology is a special kind of belief system. It provides individuals and societies purpose and meaning, and most importantly, a plan of action (or at least a set of opinions about actions). Everyone has beliefs that comprise the four aspects of ideology, like one’s identity. To have an ideology is when these four beliefs cohere, and are shared by others. The course is a historical survey of political ideologies. It begins by tracing the lineage of liberal democracy from in Ancient Greece to modern conceptions of democracy. It then considers theoretical and political responses to this lineage, from within and without of the tradition.

Aim

The goals of this class are:

1. To learn the basic foundations of the major ideologies of the Western Tradition.
2. To critically assess these ideologies, and understand their political policies.
3. To be able to apply these ideologies and their constituent theories to current events and novel situations.
3. To practice thinking and writing critically.

Method

This course will be a combination of lecturing, and class/online discussions and activities.

Assessment

Students will be assessed continuously. Students will be required to contribute to weekly online discussions in our ELMS classroom, and be expected to participate in classroom discussions and activities. There will also be a midterm and final examinations. Finally, there will be two essays written for the class. The weights are as follows:

Participation/Discussions 5%

Quizzes 10%

Midterm Exam(s) 15%

Final Exam 20%

Short Writing Assignment 20%

Longer Writing Assignment 30%

I will use numerical grades out of 100% for all assignments and make the breaks accordingly:

A 93 – 100; A- 90 – 92.9

B+ 87 – 89.9; B 83 – 86.9; B- 80 – 82.9

C+ 77 – 79.9; C 73 – 76.9; C- 70 – 72.9
D+ 67 – 69.9; D 62 – 66.9; D- 60 – 62.9
F 0 – 59.9

Special Needs and Medical Exemptions

Any student who feels they might need special accommodations with regards to assignments should contact the Counseling Center (<https://www.counseling.umd.edu/ads/>). Once registered, this office will advise me on any special accommodation I must provide, and can do so in a confidential manner without revealing the specifics of the condition to me. Of course, should any medical conditions or death of a loved one arise during the term, I would be happy to accommodate, provided I receive some documentation of the of the situation by a physician or authority.

Classroom Decorum

The success of the class depends in part on the quality of interaction between students. Therefore, the use of laptops, tablets, phones, or any devices is prohibited during the full class meetings and the discussion sections. If you need to make/take a phone call, or send/receive a message please excuse yourself from the room.

More importantly, this course will touch on a number of sensitive topics, and students are encouraged to critically engage the readings, the lecture, and each other's comments. However, I cannot stress enough the necessity to maintain respect towards each other in and out of the classroom.

Finally, students are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the school's policy on plagiarism and academic integrity. It will be taken EXTREMELY seriously in this course. In fact, student will be asked to make the UMD Honor pledge on their exams and term papers. See: <https://www.studentconduct.umd.edu/current-students>.

Lateness and Absence Policy

Students are allowed to miss one class for self-diagnosed medical reasons. Beyond that, a doctor's note is required in order for the absence to be excused. Late worksheets will not be accepted (unless excused), and essays will experience a 5% reduction for 1 day late, and then 2% each additional day. If you think a worksheet or essay is going to be late for whatever reason, please talk to me before the due date.

Communication and my Availability

The best way to reach me is by email. I will respond within 48 hours. My office hours are at the top of this document, and I encourage you to email me before coming by my office (so as not to keep you waiting if I am seeing several other students). That said, feel free to come by to discuss any special needs you may have, or simply to chat about the course.

Provisional Reading List

Text: *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*, tenth edition (Terence Ball and Richard Dagger), Routledge, 2017.

Reader: *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* (Terence Ball and Richard Dagger Eds.), Routledge, 2017.

<u>Week 1</u> Jan 29	Snow Day
Jan 31	Intro to course, and moral psychology
<u>Week 2</u> Feb 5	The Concept(s) of Ideology, and what it does for us Reader: Part 1 – The Concept of Ideology (1-3) Reader: Carver - “Ideology: The Career of a Concept” (4-12) PIDI: Chapter 1 – Ideas and Ideologies (1-18)
Feb 7	Who (and how many) should rule, and why PIDI: Chapter 2 The Democratic Ideal (19-36) Reader: Aristotle – Democratic Judgement and the Middling Constitution (23-28) Reader: Niccolo Machiavelli – What’s Wrong with Princely Rule? (26-29) Adams – What is a Republic? (33-39)
<u>Week 3</u> Feb 12	The causes and effects of democracy PIDI: Chapter 2 The Democratic Ideal (36-49) Reader: de Tocqueville – Democracy in America (44-52) Reader: J S Mill – Democratic Participation and Political Education (46-52)
Feb 14	Classical Liberalism: Hobbes's premise, and Social Contracts PIDI: Chapter 3 – Liberalism (50-68) Reader: Hobbes – The State of Nature and Basis of Obligation (69-76) Reader: Locke – Second Treatise on Government (83-87, 93-94)
<u>Week 4</u> Feb 19	Classical Liberalism: Justifying rights PIDI: Chapter 3 – Liberalism (68-72) Reader: John Locke – Letter Concerning Toleration (77-83) Reader: Locke – Second Treatise on Government (87-92) Reader: Adam Smith – Private Profit, Public Good (106-109)
Feb 21	Utilitarianism PIDI: Chapter 3 - Liberalism (64-68) Reader: J S Mill – Liberty and Individualism (110-116) Online: ‘The History of Utilitarianism’, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<u>Week 5</u> Feb 26	Liberalism and its critics from the left and right PIDI: Chapter 3 – Liberalism (68-91) Reader: T H Green – Liberalism and Positive Freedom (126-130) Reader: William Graham Sumner – According to the Fitness of Things (121-125) Reader: Murray Rothbard – Libertarianism Anarchism (171-175)

Feb 28	<p>Liberalism Today PIDI: Chapter 3 – Liberalism (92-109) Reader: Donald Allen – Paternalism vs. Democracy: A Libertarian View 164-170) Reader: Paul Krugman – The Conscience of a Liberal (156-163)</p>
<u>Week 6</u>	
March 5	<p>Conservatism: Roots and Reactionary PIDI: Chapter 4 – Conservatism (110-125) Reader: Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens (103-105) Reader: Edmund Burke – Society, Reverence, and the “True Natural Aristocracy” 189-196) Reader: Joseph De Maistre – Conservatism as Reaction (197-201)</p>
March 7	<p>Conservatism: Modern divergences PIDI: Chapter 4 – Conservatism (125-143) Reader: Michael Oakeshott – On Being Conservative (202-212) Reader: Russell Kirk – Ten Conservative Principles (213-220) Reader: Irving Kristol – The Neo-conservative Persuasion (178 – 181)</p>
<u>Week 7</u>	
March 12	Make-up/Review
March 14	Midterm Exam
	SPRING BREAK
<u>Week 8</u>	
March 26	<p>Early Socialists PIDI: Chapter 5 – Socialism and Communism (147-155) Reader: Thomas Moore – Utopia (249-256) Reader: Robert Owen – Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark (257-260)</p>
March 28	<p>Marx’s critique of capitalism and evolution to communism PIDI: Chapter 5 – Socialism and Communism (155-172) Reader: The Communist Manifesto (Marx and Engels) (204–216) Reader: Karl Marx – On the Materialist Conception of History (217-218)</p>
<u>Week 9</u>	
April 2	<p>After Marx, and the evolution of Marxism, and Leninism PIDI: Chapter 6 - Social and Communism After Marx (182-199) Reader: V I Lenin – Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution (291–311) Reader: Mao Zedong – On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship (317-328)</p>
April 4	Non-Marxist Communism, Anarcho-Communism and Fabians

	<p>PIDI: Chapter 6 – Socialism and Communism After Marx (173-182; 200-213) Eduard Bernstein – Evolutionary Socialism (284-290) Reader: Mikhail Bakunin – Anarcho-Communism vs. Marxism (329-332) Reader: Emma Goldman – Anarchism: What It Really Stands For (333-343)</p>
<p><u>Week 10</u> April 9</p>	<p>The fascist critique of liberalism and socialism. PIDI: Chapter 7- Fascism (219-232) Reader: Alfredo Rocco – The Political Theory of Fascism (382-389) Reader: Benito Mussolini – The Doctrine of Fascism (373-381)</p>
<p>April 11</p>	<p>Racialist fascism, then and now. PIDI: Chapter 7- Fascism (232-256) Reader: Joseph-Arthur Gobineau – Civilization and Race (365-372) Reader: Adolf Hitler – Nation and Race (390-407)</p>
<p><u>Week 11</u> April 16</p>	<p>Essay Writing Workshop</p>
<p>April 18</p>	<p>Liberation & Identity Politics - Black Liberation. PIDI: Chapter 8 – Liberation Ideologies and the Politics of Identity (257-267) Reader: Frederick Douglass – What to the Slave is the 4th of July? (420–425) Reader: Cornel West – Race Matters (426-429) Online: Ta-Nehisi Coates – The First White President</p>
<p><u>Week 12</u> April 23</p>	<p>Feminism: Against the obvious and hidden PIDI: Chapter 8 – Liberation Ideologies and the Politics of Identity (267-275) Reader: Olympe de Gouges – Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen (436-438) Reader: Mary Wollstonecraft – A Vindication for the Rights of Women (430-435)</p>
<p>April 25</p>	<p>LGBT and Native Peoples liberation PIDI: Chapter 8 - Liberation Ideologies and the Politics of Identity (275-284) Reader: John Corvino – Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments (378-386) Reader: Vine Deloria Jr – On Liberation (471-477)</p>
<p><u>Week 13</u> April 30</p>	<p>Radical Islam PIDI: Chapter 10 (332-355) Reader: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini – The Necessity for the Islamic Republic (561-569)</p>
<p>May 2</p>	<p>Green Politics PIDI: Chapter 9 – Green Politics (307-</p>

	Reader: Leslie Paul Thiele – Sustainability in the Age of Ecology (502-513) Reader: Wendell Barry – Getting Along with Nature (514-523)
<u>Week 14</u>	
May 7	Green Politics TBD
May 9	Future of Ideologies, If any.
	Text: Chapter 11 – Postscript: The Future of Ideology (356-371)
	TBD
<u>Week 15</u>	
May 14	Make-up/Review Essay 2 Due