

# ***POSC 120 - Politics and Ideology***

## **Winter, 2011. Instructor: David MacDonald**

**Class Times:** Weds. 2:30 - 5:20. Room: D-203

**Office:** D-3085

**Office Hours:** Immediately following each class.

**Email:** david.macdonald@ufv.ca

### **Required Text:**

Leon P. Baradat, **Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact**. (10<sup>th</sup> ed.) (New Jersey: Pearson-Prentiss Hall, 2006).

### **Course Objectives:**

POSC 110, 'Politics and Ideology', has several objectives. First, the course is designed to introduce students to the various ideologies that have played important roles in western politics for centuries. In order to do this, the course will guide students through readings and discussions about the precepts and elements of ideologies in general. After this, we consider political ideologies themselves. Second, the course intends to foster critical thinking, analysis, and independent thought regarding the role of ideology in political life. Further course objectives include developing analytical writing; participating in discussions concerning selected topics; and increasing our understanding of the role of ideologies in nearly every facet of our 'political lives'.

### **Course Content:**

#### **Week 1: Jan. 12:**

**Readings:** None

**Topics:** Introduction to course and overview.

### ***'Ideology'***

#### **Week 2: Jan. 19**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Preface and Chapter 1

**Topics:** What is 'ideology'? The role of ideologies in politics; how does understanding ideologies us help to understand the world?; definitions and contemporary understandings.

### ***'The Spectrum of Political Attitudes'***

#### **Week 3: Jan. 26**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 2.

**Topics:** Understanding political change; various ideological perspectives on change; how values and philosophy play a role.

## ‘Nationalism’

### **Week 4: Feb. 02**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 3.

**Topics:** The history and theory of nationalism and nationalist movements; the importance of nationalism in understanding historical development and politics.

## *‘The Evolution of Democratic Theory’*

### **Week 5: Feb. 09**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 4.

**Topics:** What does ‘democracy’ mean?; where does democracy come from?; what is a ‘social contract’ and who created this idea? Why?

## READING WEEK – Feb 14 – 18

## *‘Liberal Democracy: Capitalism and Beyond’*

### **Week 6: Feb. 23**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 5.

**Topics:** What is ‘capitalism’?; what did neo-classical capitalism add or change to classical capitalism?; what is ‘social-democratic liberalism’?; where did it come from and why? Utilitarianism; and Democratic Socialism.

### **Week 7: Mar. 02 \*\*\*\*\* MIDTERM EXAMINATION \*\*\*\*\***

## *‘The Liberal Democratic Process’*

### **Week 8: Mar. 09**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 6.

**Topics:** The democratic regime; its principles and purposes; critical analysis of democracy itself.

## *‘Socialist Theory’*

### **Week 9: Mar. 16**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 8.

**Topics:** Karl Marx and the theory of socialism; What does ‘socialism’ mean?; the development of socialist thought; basic principles of ‘Marxism’; what are the differences between ideas of socialism and the ways in which socialism has actually been practised?

## *‘Applied Socialism’*

### **Week 10: Mar. 23**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 9.

**Topics:** The development of socialism after Marx; the various forms of actually existing socialism around the world; consider the distinctions between Marx’s socialism and how it came to be practised.

## *‘Fascism and National Socialism’*

### **Week 11: Mar. 30**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 10.

**Topics:** How failures in democracy and capitalism facilitated fascism and national socialism; Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy; Nazi ideology; the various elements of fascism and national socialism; right-wing extremism.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS!! (Late penalty = 5%/day)**

## *‘Ideologies in the Developing World’*

### **Week 12: April 06**

**Readings:** *Political Ideologies*, Chapter 11

**Topics:** What is ‘the developing world’?; why should we care about it?; what role does economics play?; dictatorships, terrorism and authoritarian states.

### **Week 13: April 13**

**Readings:** None

**Topics:** Course Review and Final Exam Preparations

**CHAPTER REVIEW DUE IN CLASS\*\*\*\* (Late penalty = 5%/day)**

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***EVALUATION PROFILE:***

Mid-Term Exam.....	20%
Writing Assignment.....	20%
Chapter Review.....	15%
Participation.....	15%
Final Exam.....	30%

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## ***GRADING PROFILE:***

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 76 - 79%	C+ = 64 - 67%	D = 50 - 54
A = 85 - 89	B = 72 - 75	C = 60 - 63%	N/C = 0 - 49
A - = 80 - 84%	B- = 68 - 71%	C - = 55 - 59%	

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### ***Participation:***

**PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL!!** Class attendance is extremely important for all students. POSC 120 covers a broad area of Political-Ideological studies. Each class is essential for students to receive information pertaining to each week's topics. Further, students will have ample opportunities to ask questions and receive clarification regarding course content. Most important of all, class discussions will be strongly encouraged in order to facilitate learning and the interchange of ideas. The participation grade will be calculated by attendance **AND** *participation*. **Simple attendance will not ensure a satisfactory participation grade.**

### ***Chapter Review:***

Students will be required to develop a 4-6 page review of either Chapter 7 or 12 of the course text. The review will be an annotation of the chosen chapter written as a concise description of the significant contents of the chapter.

### ***Written Assignment:***

Students will be required to submit a 4-6 page writing assignment. One of the principle objects of the writing assignment is to give students an opportunity to develop and sharpen their writing skills at a university level.

The assignment will require the student to create an opening paragraph **with a thesis statement**. This introduction and thesis statement will explain and outline the topic of the paper and the method the writer wishes to employ in reaching certain conclusions.

Proper academic formatting, citations, and grammatical structure will be followed as well as the rules guiding work written in the English language. Suggested topics for the writing assignment will be given by the instructor. Guidance for specific topics and issues should be requested from the instructor by each student.

***Midterm and Final Exams:***

The examinations for this course will be closed-book and comprised of multiple-choice questions and, possibly, some short essay questions. The midterm exam will contain approximately 50 questions and the final exam will be approximately 100 questions. The questions for ***both*** exams will be taken from assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. Questions will include definitions, concepts, abstract reasoning, and critical analysis. The examinations test each student's ability to recall various specific topics as well as relate conceptual material. Midterm exams will be scheduled for the normal duration of a class (i.e. about 3 hours). The dates, times, and places for the final examinations will be announced when they are scheduled.

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**Instructor reserves the right to change this outline or its contents if necessary to better facilitate students' needs.**

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