This is a political science course about ideas, not about the actual functioning of government or the creation of public policies by government. It is, as the title implies, a study of theory not reality. However, theory has a major impact on reality because it is the primary means by which we view the political world around us. Divisions over theory have led to armed conflicts for millennia; in fact, a more appropriate name for this course might be “isms and schisms.”

Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, I hope that students will have met the following goals:

1. Understand the major ideas defining each of the covered political ideologies.
2. Be able to compare and contrast these ideologies.
3. Comprehend the effects of ideology on government and society.

Texts


Both textbooks are required.

Course Requirements and Grading

The requirements for this course are designed to support the objectives previously stated in the syllabus. The first requirement will consist of three in-class exams: an early warning exam, a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will consist of a combination of term identifications, short answer questions, and directed essay questions. The second requirement involves in class written papers applying ideas and concepts studied to current political situations/issues. Students will write these papers on three assigned class days. Each response will count for up to 25 points toward the final grade, with the lowest being dropped from consideration. The final assignment will be an out of class essay. For this assignment, students will use a statement or a speech from an incumbent political figure, either from the United States or abroad. Each student will write a 4-5 page long essay addressing the ideological positions expressed.
Grades in this class will be based on a point system. Points will be allocated in the following fashion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early warning exam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid term exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class responses</td>
<td>50 (up to 25 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of class essay</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>350</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The grading scale for the class will be as follows:

- 350-315 A
- 314-279 B
- 278-243 C
- 242-207 D
- 206---- F

Make up policy: If students miss a scheduled exam, they must see me within one week of returning to class to take a make-up to be given at my convenience. There are no make-ups on the in class responses because I will drop the lowest of the three grades which compensates for a missed day.

Attendance

Attendance is very important for success in most college classes, including this one. A substantial portion of my lecture material will not be directly addressed in the readings. While attending class on a regular basis will not guarantee a good grade, regular non-attendance will almost guarantee a bad one. To encourage attendance, I will provide 10 additional points toward the final grade for any student who has three or fewer unexcused absences over the course of the semester.

Academic advising

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an academic advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The academic advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361)825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361)825-5816.

**Grade appeals process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined on the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures or appropriate grading may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is first encouraged to discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/universityrules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/universityrules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Course Outline (subject to change with notice)**

The text, Dogmas and Dreams, will be referred to as D1 while the reader will be referred to as D2.

**August 27**, Go over syllabus and introduction to class

**August 29, September 1. Introduction to ideology**

- D1, Ch. 1
- D2, Introduction

**September 3, 5, 8,10,12. Liberalism**

- D1, Ch. 2
- D2, pp. 13-19
  - Locke, “Treatise of Civil Government”
  - Smith, “Wealth of Nations”
  - Madison, Hamilton, Jay, “Federalist Papers 10 and 51”
  - FDR, “Continuing Struggle for Liberalism”
  - Okin, “Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?”

**September 15, Early Warning Exam**

**September 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, October 1, 3, Conservatism**

- D1, Ch. 3
- D2, Burke, “Reflections on the Revolution in France”
- Bloom, “The Democratization of the University”
- Kristol, “The Neoconservative Persuasion”
- D’Souza, “The Enemy at Home”

**Writing Assignment 1, October 6**
October 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, Socialism
   D1, Ch. 4
   D2, Fourier, “Utopian Socialism”
   Marx, “Estranged Labor”
   Marx and Engels, “Communist Manifesto”
   Lenin, “State and Revolution”
   Hayden and Flacks, “The Port Huron Statement at 40”

Writing Assignment 2, October 20

October 22, Mid term exam

October 24, 27, 29, Anarchism
   D1, Ch. 5
   D2, Goldman, “Anarchism: What it really stands for”
   Thoreau, “Essay on Civil Disobedience”
   Starhawk, “How We Really Shut Down the WTO”

October 31, November 3, Film “The Wobblies”

November 5, 7, 10, 12, Fascism
   D1, Ch. 6
   D2, Mussolini, “Fascism: Doctrine and Institutions”
   Hitler, “Mein Kampf”
   Macdonald, “The Turner Diaries”

November 14, 17, Film on women’s movement

November 19, 21, 24, Feminism
   D1, Ch. 7
   D2, Wollstonecraft, “Vindication of the Rights of Women”
   Friedan, “Our Revolution is Unique”
   Schlafly, “The Power of the Positive Woman”
   Baumgardner and Richards, “What is Feminism?”

Writing Assignment 3, December 1

Final Exam, Wednesday, December 10 at 8 a.m.