Course Description
Ideologies are interrelated sets of ideas about politics, which can both shape our evaluations of existing political institutions and suggest paths forward, toward new and purportedly more just political arrangements. This course offers an overview of several prominent political ideologies—varieties of liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, feminism, and others—with a focus on how differing conceptions of human nature and society can lead to very different moral and political conclusions.

We begin with a brief examination of the concept of ideology itself before moving on to in-depth studies liberalism and conservatism, the foremost American political ideologies. After the midterm, we conclude with briefer examinations of feminism and identity politics, Marxism, and fascism.

Requirements and Grading

Required Texts
There are no required texts for this class: readings will be made available as PDFs in the Course Documents section of Blackboard. However, students are responsible for printing reading assignments and bringing hard copies to class.

Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>EVERYDAY</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Mar. 20, 8:00</td>
<td>30</td>
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Participation
This course incorporates a lot of reading. Your biggest responsibility is to keep up with daily reading, and come to class ready to discuss. I know that not everyone likes to talk in class. If this is you, please come to see me in office hours to show that you’re here and engaged in other ways. In addition to this, participation grades will reflect your performance on three unannounced reading quizzes that will be given throughout the term.

Essay
There will be one essay, of around 2000 words (~7 pages), due Thursday of Week 9. A few example topics will be provided by the end of Week 5. If you would like to write on an alternative topic, you are welcome to do so, but will need to email me an overview of the topic by the end of Week 6. Essays will be graded down 5% for each day late.
Exams
There are two exams, containing short answer and essay questions. Study guides will be provided beforehand. No make-up examinations will be given without an excuse, which must be approved in advance (except in extreme circumstances). Excuses will only be approved for medical or family emergencies.

Academic Misconduct
This goes without saying: don’t cheat. The work that you represent as being your own should be your own. If you have any questions about what that means, please consult UO’s plagiarism information page at (http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html).

The Nature and Scope of Ideology

Week 1
T, Jan. 6. Introduction: Ideology, Ideas, and Normativity
R, Jan. 8. Ideology as Distortion / Ideology as Everything

Liberalisms

Week 2
T, Jan. 13. Locke and Negative Liberty
R, Jan. 15. Rousseau and Positive Liberty

Week 3
T, Jan. 20. Mill and Utilitarianism
R, Jan. 22. Rawls and Contractualism
Week 4

T, Jan. 27. Markets and Libertarianism—Guest Lecture

- Readings TBA

Conservatism and Community

Week 4 continued

R, Jan. 29. Introduction: Conservatism and Continuity


Week 5

T, Feb. 3. Hegel


R, Feb 5. The Critique of Absolute Freedom


Week 6

T, Feb. 10. Where Are We Now? Neoconservatism and Neoliberalism


MIDTERM: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Feminisms

Week 7

T, Feb. 17. The First and Second Waves

R, Feb. 19. Gender

Nationalism and the Politics of Difference

Week 8

T, Feb. 24. Nationalism: Civic and Cultural


Marx, Communism, and Fascism

Week 9

T, Mar. 3. Marx
- Karl Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 70-81
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” in *The Marx-Engels Reader*
**R, Mar. 5: Communism and Fascism**
- Benito Mussolini and Giovanni Gentile, “The Doctrine of Fascism” (Online)

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**Conclusions: Is There An Answer? What’s the Question?**

**Week 10**

**T, Mar. 10. Isaiah Berlin and Value Pluralism**

**R, Mar. 12. Is Ideology a Privilege?**

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**FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 8:00 A.M.**