

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

POLS 165: Political Ideologies, Fall 2023

I. Basic Information

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Course Description

Political ideologies permeate all aspects of contemporary existence. There is no escaping the effect they have on everything from domestic and international policy, social and political organization, and the experience of everyday life. In this course you will learn about various political ideologies and belief systems—from left to right, and everything in between. Political ideologies often emerge out of a specific historical context in response to what is perceived as a political problem or threat. How an ideology or adherents frame the political problem will have a strong effect on their proposed solution/s. Furthermore, how an ideology proposes to solve political problems will determine how proponents understand the role of the state; *who* is responsible for the problem, and *who* is the intended beneficiary of the solution; as well as the role of justice/the justice system, political change, and the economy. Through reading, writing, thinking, and in-class discussions, you will learn how each political ideology conceptualizes each of these elements, as well as what constitutes their ideal political project. Beyond exposing you to ideologies across the political spectrum, this course will encourage you to critically examine your own political ideology and reflect on this in comparison with other ideologies. While the purpose of this course is not to change your mind, this course is an opportunity to think through your ideological commitments while experimenting with others. There may be no escape from ideological commitments, but they are subject to change.

II. Tentative Course Schedule

Weekly reading list subject to change. Whenever changes must be made to the reading list, these will be done with at least one week notice. Tentative reading schedule will be disseminated the first week of classes.

Unless otherwise noted, all readings can be found in Terence Ball, Richard Dagger, and Daniel I. O’Neill’s book: *Ideals and Ideologies*; or in Elisabeth Anker’s *Ugly Freedoms*.

- For all readings in Ball, Dagger, & O’Neill – the sub-chapters will be listed as the numerical sub-chapters with the corresponding author (e.g., 1.1 Terrell Carver).
- For all readings in Elisabeth Anker’s *Ugly Freedoms*, it will be abbreviated as Anker, Chapter ____.

Part I: Introduction to Ideology and Democracy

Week 1: Introduction

- Monday January 8
 - Syllabus and Introduction to the Course
- Wednesday January 10 **Defining Political Ideology**
 - Ball & Dagger (B&D) – Part 1: The Concept of Ideology
 - 1.1 Terrell Carver: “Ideology: The Career of a Concept”
 - **Listen:** Red Brain, Blue Brain, *Hidden Brain*. [Online](#).
- Friday January 12
 - **Friday Activity 1**

Week 2: The Democratic Ideal

- Monday January 15: No Class
- Wednesday January 17: **Democracy**
 - 2.2 Euripides—Democracy and Despotism (pp. 15-16)
 - 2.3 Pericles—Funeral Oration (pp. 17-22)
 - 2.8 Alexis de Tocqueville—Democracy and Equality (pp. 41-48)
 - 2.9 John Stuart Mill—Democratic Participation and Political Education. (pp. 49-56)
- Friday January 19: **Democracy & Republicanism**
 - 2.4 Aristotle—Democratic Judgment and the “Middling” Constitution (pp. 23-28)
 - 2.5 Niccolò Machiavelli—What’s Wrong with Princely Rule? (29-32)
 - 2.6 John Adams—What Is a Republic? (33-38)
 - 2.7 Bill of Rights of the United States (39-41)

Part II: The Dominant Political Ideologies

Week 3: Classical Liberalism

- Monday January 22: **Origins of Classical Liberalism**
 - 3.13 Thomas Hobbes—The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation (pp. 79-86)
 - 3.14 John Locke—Toleration and Government (pp. 87-102)
 - **Recommended:**
 - **Listen:** Philosophize This, Episode #026, The Social Contract, Thomas Hobbes, Part 1. [Online](#).
 - **Listen:** Philosophize This, Episode #035, John Locke, Part 1. [Online](#).
- Wednesday January 24: **Classical Liberalism Continued**
 - 3.15 Thomas Paine—Government, Rights, and the Freedom of Generations (pp. 103-106)
 - 3.18 Adam Smith—Private Profit, Public Good (pp. 115-118)
 - 3.19 Immanuel Kant—Freedom and Enlightenment (pp. 119-122)
 - 3.20 John Stuart Mill—Liberty and Individuality (pp. 123-130)
 - **Recommended:**
 - 3.16 Declaration of Independence of the United States (pp. 107-110)
 - 3.17 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens (pp. 111-114)
 - 3.21 William Graham Sumner—According to the Fitness of Things (131-134)
 - **Listen:** Philosophize This, Episode #061, Kant Part 6, “What is Enlightenment?” [Online](#).
- Friday January 26
 - **Friday Activity 2: Media Literacy Workshop**

Week 4: Welfare Liberalism vs Libertarianism

- Monday January 29: **Welfare Liberalism & Cold War Liberalism**
 - 3.22 T. H. Green—Liberalism and Positive Freedom (135-138)
 - 3.23 Franklin D. Roosevelt—Commonwealth Club Address (1932) (139-146)
 - 3.24 Lyndon B. Johnson—“To Fulfill These Rights:” Speech at Howard University (147-152)
 - 3.25 Paul Krugman—The Conscience of a Liberal (pp. 153-158)
 - Samuel Moyn, “Liberalism in Mourning,” *The Boston Review*, August 30, 2023, [Online](#).

- Wednesday January 31: **Libertarianism**
 - 3.26 Donald Allen—Paternalism vs. Democracy: A Libertarian View (159-164)
 - 3.27 Murray Rothbard—Libertarian Anarchism (165-168)
 - 3.28 Terence Ball—A Libertarian Utopia (169-177)
 - **Recommended:**
 - **Listen:** The Grey Area with Sean Illing, “The rocky marriage between libertarians and conservatives,” [Spotify](#), [Online](#).
- Friday February 2:
 - **Friday Activity 3**

Week 5: Classical Conservatism

- Monday February 5: **Classical Conservatism**
 - 4.29 Edmund Burke—Society, Reverence, and the “True Natural Aristocracy” (179-187)
 - 4.31 Michael Oakeshott—On Being Conservative (193-201)
 - **Recommended:**
 - 4.30 Joseph de Maistre—Conservatism as Reaction (189-192)
- Wednesday February 7: **Contemporary Conservatism**
 - 4.32 Russell Kirk—Ten Conservative Principles (203-209)
 - 4.33 Ronald Reagan—Modern American Conservatism (211-218)
 - **Recommended:**
 - 4.34 Irving Kristol—The Neoconservative Persuasion (219-222)
 - **Listen:** The Grey Area with Sean Illing, “Conservative Socialism?” [Spotify](#), [Online](#).
 - 4.35 Max Boot and David Brooks—Conservatives Assess Trump (223-228)
- Friday February 9
 - **Friday Activity 4: Guest Lecture** with Dr. Gregory Koutnik

Week 6: Socialism and Communism

- Monday February 12: **Utopianism and Communism**
 - 5.36 Thomas More—Utopia (pp. 231-238)
 - 5.38 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels—The Communist Manifesto (pp. 243-256)
 - 5.39 Karl Marx—On the Materialist Conception of History (pp. 257-258)
 - **Recommended:**
 - 6.41 V. I. Lenin—Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution (pp. 269-284)
 - 6.42 Leon Trotsky—The Permanent Revolution (285-290)
- Wednesday February 14: **Socialism**
 - 6.40 Eduard Bernstein—Evolutionary Socialism (pp. 263-268)
 - 6.46 Eugene V. Debs—Speech to the Conference for Progressive Political Action (pp. 315-320)
 - 6.47 Bernie Sanders—On Democratic Socialism in the United States (pp. 321-326)
- Friday February 16
 - **Friday Activity 5**

Week 7: Anarchism

- Monday February 19: **No Class: President’s Day**
- Wednesday February 21: **Anarchism**
 - **Listen:** The Grey Area with Sean Illing, “Taking Anarchism Seriously,” [Spotify](#), or [Online](#).

- 6.44 Mikhail Bakunin—Anarcho-Communism vs. Marxism (pp. 301-304)
 - 6.45 Emma Goldman—Anarchism: What It Really Stands For (pp. 305-314)
 - Murray Bookchin, "Libertarian Municipalism: An Overview" ([Online](#))
 - **Recommended:**
 - Ruth Kinna, "Mutual Aid: Kropotkin's Theory of Human Capacity" (D2L)
- Friday February 23: **Anarchism Continued**
 - James Martel, "Introduction: Disappointing Vision," in *Anarchist Prophets*, 2022. (D2L)
 - **Recommended:**
 - CLR James, "Every Cook Can Govern" (D2L)

Week 8: Fascism and Authoritarianism

- Monday February 26: **Fascisms**
 - 7.48 Joseph-Arthur de Gobineau—Civilization and Race (pp. 329-336)
 - 7.49 Benito Mussolini—The Doctrine of Fascism (pp. 337-346)
- Wednesday February 28: **Fascisms**
 - 7.50 Alfredo Rocco—The Political Theory of Fascism (pp. 347-352)
 - 7.51 Adolf Hitler—Nation and Race (pp. 353-368)
 - **Recommended:**
 - 7.52 Robert Kagan—This is How Fascism Comes to America (pp. 369-372)
- Friday March 1
 - **Friday Activity 6**

Part III: How to Think About Freedom

Week 9: Ugly Freedoms

- Monday March 4: **Ugly Freedoms**
 - Anker, Introduction: Ugly Freedoms (pp. 1-36)
- Wednesday March 6: **Ugly Freedoms**
 - Anker, Chapter 1: White and Deadly: Sugar and the Sweet Taste of Freedom (pp. 37-76)
- Friday March 8
 - **Friday Activity 7**

SPRING BREAK!!

- **No classes, March 11-15**

Week 10: Ugly Freedoms Continued

- Monday March 18: **Ugly Freedoms**
 - Anker, Chapter 2: Tragedies of Emancipation: Freedom, Sex, and Theft after Slavery (pp. 77-112)
- Wednesday March 20: **Ugly Freedoms**
 - Anker, Chapter 3: Thwarting Neoliberalism: Boredom, Dysfunction, and Other Visionless Challenges (pp. 113-147)
- Friday March 22
 - **Friday Activity: 8**

Week 11:

- No Classes Monday March 25-Friday March 29

Part IV: Liberation Ideologies

Week 12: Black Liberation and Native American Liberation

- Monday April 1: **Black Liberation**
 - 8.53 Frederick Douglass—What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July? (pp. 377-382)
 - 8.54 Cornel West—Race Matters (pp. 383-386)
 - 8.55 Erik Loomis—A New Chapter in the Black Liberation Movement (pp. 387-390)
 - 8.56 Black Lives Matter—A Vision for Black Lives (pp. 391-400)
- Wednesday April 3: **Red Power & Native American Liberation**
 - Readings:
 - 8.63 Vine Deloria, Jr.—On Liberation (pp. 441-446)
 - Vine Deloria, The Indian Movement, *God is Red*. (D2L)
 - Nick Estes, Red Power, in *Our History is The Future* (D2L)
- Friday April 5
 - **Friday Activity**

Week 12: Women’s Liberation and LGBTQ Liberation

- Monday April 8: **Women’s Liberation**
 - 8.57 Mary Wollstonecraft—A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (pp. 401-406)
 - 8.59 Marilyn Frye—Oppression (pp. 411-420)
 - 8.60 bell hooks—Feminism Is for Everybody (pp. 421-426)
 - 8.61 Josephine Livingstone—The Task Ahead for Feminism (pp. 427-430)
- Wednesday April 10: **LGBTQ Liberation**
 - 8.62 John Corvino—Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments (pp. 431-440)
 - Alithia Zamantakis and Aviva Levine —“A victory for one is a victory for all: Lessons from “Trans Liberation”” [Online](#)
- Friday April 12
 - **Friday Activity 9**

Part V: Ecology as Ideology and Animal Liberation

Week 13: Green Politics & Animal Liberation

- Monday April 15: **Animal Liberation**
 - 8.65 Peter Singer—All Animals Are Equal (pp. 453-464)
 - Animal Defense League Manifesto (D2L)
- Wednesday April 17: **Green Politics as Ideology**
 - 9.66 Leslie Paul Thiele—Sustainability in the Age of Ecology (pp. 465-469)
 - 9.67 Wendell Berry—Getting Along with Nature (pp. 479-486)
 - Aviva Chomsky, Alexis Papazoglou, “Did the Enlightenment lead to the Climate Crisis?” iai News. October 31, 2023. ([Online](#)).
- Friday April 19
 - **Friday Activity 10**

Week 14: Green Politics & Ecology as Ideology

- Monday April 22: **Eco-Ideologies**

- 9.68 Val Plumwood—Feminism and the Mastery of Nature (pp. 487-494)
- 9.69 James H. Cone—Whose Earth Is It, Anyway? (pp. 495-502)
- 9.70 Pope Francis—*Laudato Si'*: On Care for our Common Home (pp. 503-510)
- Wednesday April 24: **Ugly Freedom & Climate Destruction**
 - Anker, Chapter 4: Freedom as Climate Destruction (pp. 148-180)
- Friday April 26
 - **Friday Activity 11: In Class Writing Assignment & Study Session**