

Professor Dan O'Neill

Office: 334 Anderson

POT 3302: Political Ideologies

OH: W, 10-1

(Spring 2019)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The British economist John Maynard Keynes once famously quipped that, in the last analysis, the ideas of political philosophers and economists rule the world. Keynes believed that so-called “practical” people, who believe that they are exempt from any intellectual influence, are usually simply repeating as their own the ideas of some earlier thinker. So, too, “madmen in authority” who believe that they hear the unique voice of inspiration are in fact usually “distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler of a few years back.” Keynes pointed out a hard truth: there is no escaping from political ideology for any of us; there is only the pretense of it. Against this backdrop, the purpose of this course is twofold. First, and more broadly, it will examine the historical development and contemporary manifestation of a variety of political ideologies. Second, and more specifically, the course aims to confront students with a wide range of ideological alternatives for critical consideration, precisely so that you can understand *which* ideology (or ideologies) you currently believe in, *why* you believe what you do, and *how* best to defend your beliefs (if at the end of the day you still think that they are worth defending). Put a bit differently, the purpose of the course is to historically contextualize and critically analyze the most salient contemporary political ideologies by reading, thinking, talking, and writing about them. As such, the class necessarily holds open the possibility that what students believe on the first day of the semester might not necessarily be what they believe on the last. After all, while ideological commitments cannot disappear, they are subject to change.

Required Text:

Terence Ball, Richard Dagger, and Daniel O'Neill (eds.), *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader*, 10th edition (New York: Routledge: 2017).

*Additional material emailed to students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments and Grading: Grades for the course will be determined by several components: two 8-10 page papers (30% each); a course final (25%); and class attendance and participation (15%). The due dates for the paper and the final are listed below. Like the papers, the final will be entirely essay-based; the questions for the final will be handed out in advance, on the last day of class. The highest grade a late paper can receive in the absence of a legitimate excuse is a “C+.” An example of a legitimate excuse would be an illness for which you have a signed doctor’s note. Please be aware: A “C+” is not the lowest grade a late paper can receive; it is the highest (i.e., it is the ceiling, not the floor). You have plenty of time to write these papers; do not wait until the last minute.

Preparation: You will notice that the portion of your grade comprised by attendance and active participation is rather high. That is by design. Attendance will be taken regularly. This course is reading intensive. With rare exceptions, every Thursday we will discuss the assigned readings for the week. *You must do the reading to be covered during a given week prior to Thursday’s class.* If you have not done the reading beforehand, you will have little or nothing to contribute to this class. At a self-interested level, this will hurt your grade a.) Because participation counts, and b.) Because the readings and discussion pursuant to them are meant to help you write better papers, and perform better on the exam. If you are playing catch up on the reading, you will be in trouble in this course. At a deeper level, failure to stay up with the reading, reflect upon it, and come to class prepared to discuss it, will stunt your intellectual growth---that would be a shame.

Policy on Academic Integrity: All students are required to abide by the University of Florida’s Academic Honesty Guidelines, which may be viewed at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php> Among other things, this means that cheating on exams is totally unacceptable, as is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of portraying as your own the words or ideas of other people. Examples include: submitting entire papers, or portions of papers, that you did not write (e.g., old papers written by other students, new papers written by other students, papers which you paid a “research” service to write for you, papers or portions of papers downloaded from the Internet). Copying verbatim or paraphrasing any substantial portion of text by another author without acknowledging the source via quotation and/or footnotes is plagiarism. Plagiarism is far easier to spot than you might think. Do not ruin your experience in this or any other class by engaging in academic dishonesty. This should be made somewhat easier in the current class, because all outside sources are strictly forbidden when it comes to writing papers and taking the exam!

Accommodations: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please come see me as soon as possible regarding this matter.

Cell phones, The Alligator, etc.: Cell phones should be turned off prior to class. Save Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, etc., etc., until your free time. Fold the paper and put it away for the duration of the class. If this cannot be done, I will make the class an electronics-free zone.

Lecture, Reading, and Discussion Schedule:

January 8 (T), January 10 (TH): Introduction/Overview; Self-Identification of Student Ideologies; Defining “Ideology”

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O’Neill, “Introduction,” “The Concept of Ideology”; Terrell Carver, “Ideology: The Career of a Concept” (*BD&O*, pp. xvii-12);

January 15 (T), January 17 (TH): Democracy and Republicanism

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O’Neill, “The Democratic Ideal: Historical and Philosophical Foundations”; Euripides, “Democracy and Despotism”; Pericles, “Funeral Oration”; Aristotle, “Democratic Judgment and the ‘Middling’ Constitution”; Alexis de Tocqueville, “Democracy and Equality”; John Stuart Mill, “Democratic Participation and Political Education”; Niccolò Machiavelli, “What’s Wrong with Princely Rule?”; John Adams, “What is a Republic?” (*BD&O*), pp. 16-39, 43-60); *Alex Keyssar, “Voter Suppression, Then and Now”; *Timothy Egan, “The Dumbed Down Democracy”

January 22 (T); January 24 (TH): Classical Liberalism (early)

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O’Neill, “Introduction”; Thomas Hobbes, “The State of Nature and the Basis of Political Obligation”; John Locke, “Toleration and Government”; Thomas Paine, “Government, Rights, and the Freedom of Generations”; *Declaration of Independence of the United States; Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen; Bill of Rights of the United States*; Adam Smith, “Private Profit, Public Good”; Immanuel Kant, “Freedom and Enlightenment”; John Stuart Mill, “Liberty and Individuality” (*BD&O*, pp. 65-120, 40-42)

January 29 (T); January 31 (TH): Classical Liberalism (later), and Libertarianism

Reading: William Graham Sumner, “According to the Fitness of Things”; Donald Allen, “Paternalism vs. Democracy: A Libertarian View”; Murray Rothbard, “Libertarian Anarchism”; Terence Ball, “A Libertarian Utopia”; (*BD&O*, pp. 121-125, 164-186); *Ayn Rand, “Collectivized Ethics”; *Robert Nozick, excerpt from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*

February 5 (T); February 7 (TH): Welfare Liberalism

Reading: T.H. Green, “Liberalism and Positive Freedom”; Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Commonwealth Club Address”; Lyndon B. Johnson, ““To Fulfill These Rights: Speech at Howard University””; Barack Obama, “Speech at Osawatomie, Kansas”; Paul Krugman, “The Conscience of a Liberal”(BD&O, pp. 126-163); *John Rawls, excerpt from *A Theory of Justice*;
FIRST PAPER TOPIC HANDED OUT ON THURSDAY

February 12 (T), February 14 (TH): Conservatism (early)

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O’Neill, “Conservatism”; Edmund Burke, “Society, Reverence, and the True ‘Natural Aristocracy’”; Joseph de Maistre, “Conservatism as Reaction”; Michael Oakeshott, “On Being Conservative”; Russell Kirk, “Ten Conservative Principles” (BD&O, pp. 187-220); *Andrew Sullivan, “Democracies End When They Become Too Democratic”

February 19 (T); February 21 (TH): Conservatism (later)

Reading: Ronald Reagan, “Modern American Conservatism”; Irving Kristol, “The Neoconservative Persuasion”; Robert George, et al, *The Manhattan Declaration* (BD&O, pp. 221-245); *Selected Speeches and Writings of President Donald J. Trump; *Max Boot and David Brooks, “Conservatives Assess Trump” (**FIRST PAPER DUE ON TUESDAY**)

February 26 (T), February 28 (TH): Socialism, Communism, and Anarchism (early)

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O’Neill, “Socialism and Communism: More to Marx”; Thomas More, “Utopia”; Robert Owen, “Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark”; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, from *The Communist Manifesto*; Karl Marx, “On the Materialist Conception of History”; Mikhail Bakunin, “Anarcho-Communism vs. Marxism”; Emma Goldman, “Anarchism: What it Really Stands For”; Edward Bellamy, “Looking Backward” (BD&O, pp. 247-279; 333-355)

March 5 (T), March 7 (TH): NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

March 12 (T), March 14 (TH): Socialism and Communism After Marx

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O'Neill, "Socialism and Communism After Marx"; Eduard Bernstein, "Evolutionary Socialism"; V.I. Lenin, "Revisionism, Imperialism, and Revolution"; Leon Trotsky, "The Permanent Revolution"; Mao Zedong, "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship"; Bernie Sanders, "On Democratic Socialism in the United States" (*BD&O*, 281-328, 356-362); *Eugene V. Debs, "Speech to the Conference for Progressive Political Action; *C. Wright Mills, "The Power Elite," "Letter to a New Left,"

March 19 (T); March 21 (TH): Fascism

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O'Neill, "Fascism"; Joseph-Arthur de Gobineau, "Civilization and Race"; Benito Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism"; Alfredo Rocco, "The Political Theory of Fascism"; Adolf Hitler, "Nation and Race"; Andrew Macdonald [William L. Pierce], from *The Turner Diaries* (*BD&O*, pp. 363-415); *Robert Kagan, "This is How Fascism Comes to America" **SECOND PAPER HANDED OUT (THURSDAY)**

March 26 (T); March 28 (TH): Liberation Ideologies (I): African American Liberation and Women's Liberation/Feminism

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O'Neill, "Liberation Ideologies and the Politics of Identity"; Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"; Cornel West, from *Race Matters* (*BD&O*, pp. 417-429); *Erik Loomis, "A New Chapter in the Black Liberation Movement"; *Black Lives Matter, "A Vision for Black Lives: Demands for Black Power, Freedom & Justice"

Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Olympe de Gouges, *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen*; *Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*; Marilyn Frye, "Oppression"; bell hooks, "Feminism is for Everybody" (*BD&O*, pp. 436-459); *Josephine Livingston, "The Task Ahead for Feminism"

April 2 (T); April 4 (TH): Liberation Ideologies (II): LGBT Liberation, Indigenism, Liberation Theology, and the Fight against "Speciesism"

Reading: John Corvino, "Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments"; Vine Deloria, Jr., "On Liberation"; Gustavo Gutierrez, "Liberation Theology"; Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal" (*BD&O*, pp. 460-497) **SECOND PAPER DUE (TUESDAY)**

April 9 (T); April 11 (TH): Green Politics: Ecology as Ideology

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O'Neill, "Green Politics: Ecology as Ideology"; Leslie Paul Thiele, "Sustainability in the Age of Ecology"; Wendell Berry, "Getting Along with Nature"; Val Plumwood, "Feminism and the Mastery of Nature," James H. Cone, "Whose Earth is it Anyway?"; Pope Francis, "*Laudato Si'*: On Care for our Common Home" (*BD&O*, pp. 499-551);

April 16 (T); April 18: Radical Islamism

Reading: Ball, Dagger, and O'Neill, "Radical Islamism"; Sayyid Qutb, from *Signposts Along the Road*; Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, "The Necessity for Islamic Government"; Osama bin Laden and Others, "Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders"; Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi/ISIS, "Declaration of a Caliphate" (*BD&O*, pp. 553-578)

April 23 (T): Conclusion; Revisiting Student Ideologies; Final Exam Questions Handed Out

May 1: FINAL EXAM (5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.)