

**Saint Mary's University**  
**Political Science 1210.1 Fall 2011**  
**POLITICAL IDEAS: 'ISMS' AND BELIEFS**

**Instructor:** Dr. S. Gaon

**Office:** 402 MN (420.5843)

**Drop-in Hours:** Tues & Weds, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

**Class Time:** Mon/Weds: 1:00-2:15pm

**Class Location:** Atrium 101

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

What is “ideology”? What is its role in political life? Are some ideologies better than others? If so, how can we tell? This course offers students an introduction to the big political ideas and the beliefs associated with them (i.e., to the major “isms,” such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, fascism, feminism, and anti-racism), and an opportunity to examine their role in politics. We will focus on the meaning of “ideology” in general and on its place in contemporary political life, as well on some of the new political ideas and “isms” that have emerged more recently. By the end of the course students will be able to recognize some of the major intellectual trends in political discourse, and will have gained an enhanced ability to engage with theoretical texts.

**Required Texts**

• *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal, Second Canadian Edition*, by T. Ball, R. Dagger, W. Christian and C. Campbell. Available at the University Bookstore (approx. \$90). It can also be purchased in digital form (approx. \$30). For this option, go to [www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com) and enter the ISBN number: **978-0-321-49554-9**.

• *Custom Course kit*. Available at Fedex-Kinko's. Call **423-5500** to order your copy a few hours in advance of pick up, and one will be prepared for you. Fedex-Kinko's is at 1469 Brenton Street (just off Spring Garden Road).

**Suggested Text (Essay Documentation Guide)**

• Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources. A Guide for Students* (Hackett Books, 1998). (Available at the University Bookstore).

**FORMAT, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

The class meets twice a week for 75 minutes and consists of lectures, exercises, workshops and in-class discussions. Please BRING THE ASSIGNED READING MATERIAL TO CLASS each week. You are expected to ATTEND REGULARLY and to be fully PREPARED to discuss the assigned material; indeed, your PARTICIPATION is an indispensable element of the course. Ten percent of the final grade will be based on your successful completion of the assigned WRITING HELP ON-LINE (WHO) modules produced by the Writing Centre.

**The course grade will be calculated as follows:**

• WHO modules 1 & 2 (on-line)	05% (pass/fail)
• WHO modules 3, 4 & 5 (on-line)	05% (pass/fail)
• 2 Quizzes (10% each)	20%
• 2 Writing Assignments (20% each)	40%
• Participation	10%
• Final Assignment	20%

***WHO Modules***

Students must complete modules 1 and 2 and modules 3, 4 and 5 of the Writing Centre's On-Line Writing Tutorial (WHO) by specific dates. These assignment will be marked on a pass/fail basis: the successful completion of *all* five modules (as confirmed by the Writing Centre) will qualify as a "pass" and will be awarded 10% of the final grade (5% for each set of three).

***Writing Assignments***

All writing assignments, including the final one, will be handed out in class and posted on-line two weeks before the due dates. They are due ***in class, at the beginning of the scheduled lecture.*** Assignments must be **TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, STAPLED, in 12 POINT FONT and WITH ONE INCH MARGINS.**

- Students are expected to follow a **DOCUMENTATION GUIDE** consistently for all citations and references, and must provide a full bibliographical entry for every resource that has been used, including internet sources. You may use the guide suggested above, or consult on-line documentation information at:

<http://www.smu.ca/academic/writingcentre/online1.html#styles>

- *Assignments that lack adequate documentation, and/or that stray unreasonably beyond the length requirements in either direction, will be penalized.* (Please consult the instructor if you are at all unsure about anything).

- Students are required to **KEEP COPIES** of all assignments. If your submission is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately upon request.

***Quizzes***

Two in-class quizzes will be administered in class on designated dates. These will be based on readings for the week in question. There are *each* worth 10% of the total grade..

***Participation***

Participation includes preparing for class in advance, arriving for class on time, completing assignments on time, and taking part in activities in class. Attendance will be taken five times, *randomly*, each worth 2%. To receive credit for participation, students must be in class when attendance is taken. Attendance may be taken at *any point* during *any* class.

### ***Classroom Conduct***

To promote mutual respect, all students shall:

- 1) Arrive on time and refrain from leaving the room during class,
- 2) Listen attentively while another person is talking, and
- 3) Turn off all electronic devices before class. (Those working with laptops are asked to sit in the front 2 rows to minimize distractions for other students.)

### ***Late Policy***

Late assignments and missed tests will be *not* be accepted except in extreme and documented cases. Extensions **must** be arranged in advance of the due date and must be accompanied by appropriate documentation

*IF YOU ARE UNSURE HOW TO DOCUMENT YOUR WORK, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL ABOUT LECTURES OR ISSUES DISCUSSED IN CLASS, PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH – IN CLASS, BY PHONE, BY EMAIL OR DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS. I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO RESPOND TO YOUR CONCERNS.*

## **COURSE OVERVIEW (Reading and dates may be subject to change)**

SEPTEMBER 7: INTRODUCTION to the course and the assignments

SEPTEMBER 12, 14: WHAT IS IDEOLOGY?  
Chapter 1 (pp. 1-14) of *Political Ideologies*.

SEPTEMBER 19, 21: THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY  
Chapter 10 (pp. 216-236), and course kit readings: “Letter from Birmingham City Jail” by Martin Luther King (see also his speech, “I have a Dream” included in course kit).

SEPTEMBER 26, 28: WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?  
Chapter 2 (pp. 15-33) and course kit reading: “Town Meetings and Workers’ Control” by Michael Walzer. **Quiz #1: Monday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.**

OCTOBER 3, 5: DEMOCRACY AND CLASSICAL LIBERALISM  
Chapter 3 (pp. 37-58 only) and course kit readings: “On Liberty” by J. S. Mill, and the National Assembly of France’s “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens.”  
**On-line Writing Tutorial (WHO) results due Mon. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> for modules 1 & 2**  
(Paragraphs & Citations).

OCTOBER 10: THANKSGIVING (NO CLASSES)

OCTOBER 12: MODERN LIBERALISM  
Chapter 3 (pp. 58-73 only) and course kit reading: “The Wealth of Nations” by Adam Smith. **Writing assignment #1 due Weds, October 12<sup>th</sup>.**

OCTOBER 17, 19: CLASSICAL CONSERVATISM  
Chapter 4 (pp. 77-89 only) and course kit readings: “Reflections on the Revolution in France” by Edmund Burke and the National Assembly of France’s “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens.”

OCTOBER 24, 26 : MODERN CONSERVATISM

Chapter 4 (pp. 89-110 only) and course kit readings: “On Being Conservative” by Michael Oakeshott, “The Republican Collapse” by David Brooks, and “Neocon 101: Some Basic Questions Answered.”

**On-line Writing Tutorial (WHO) results due Weds. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> for modules 3, 4 & 5**  
(Introductions, Thesis Statements & Conclusions).

OCTOBER 31, NOVEMBER 2: EARLY SOCIALISM & COMMUNISM

Chapter 5 (pp. 115-132) and course kit reading: “The Communist Manifesto” by Marx and Engels. **Writing assignment #2 due Weds. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

NOVEMBER 7, 9: LATER SOCIALISM & ANARCHY

Chapter 6 (pp. 136-165) and course kit reading: “On Anarchism” by Emma Goldman.  
**Quiz # 2: Wednesday Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>**

NOVEMBER 14, 16: NATIONALISM AND FASCISM

Chapters 7 and 8 (pp. 170-198), and course kit reading: “The Doctrine of Fascism” by Benito Mussolini.

NOVEMBER 21, 23: THE WORLD TODAY

Chapters 12 and 13 (pp. 271-295) and course kit readings: “Crashing the Tea Party” by David Campbell and Robert Putnam, and “Reactionaries are feminists, too,” by Naomi Wolf.

November 28, 30: REVIEW AND WRAP UP

**Final writing assignment due Wednesday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.**

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**A NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any form of fraud or plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence and will not be tolerated in this course. Students found to have committed an act of fraud or plagiarism or to have cheated will automatically, and without consultation, receive an ‘F’, and upon final determination will receive a notification of plagiarism which will be added to the student's official file by the Registrar's Office as per the University's Academic Regulation 19. In particular, plagiarism is:

“The presentation of words, ideas or techniques of another as one's own. Plagiarism is not restricted to literary works, and applies to all forms of information or ideas that belong to another (e.g., computer programs, mathematical solutions, scientific experiments, graphical images or data)” Examples include: quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing text without proper acknowledgment; paraphrasing too closely (e.g., changing only a few words or simply rearranging the text); downloading all or part of a paper, journal article or book from the internet or a library database and presenting it as one's own work; purchasing documentation and presenting it as one's own work; sharing papers including the selling of essays, tests, or other assignments. (Saint Mary's University, *Academic Calendar*, 2011-12, pp. 21-22).

Each student must be aware of what constitutes academic fraud and plagiarism according to the definitions of the University as well as the consequences such acts carry. If unsure, consult the instructor and also see the section on ‘Academic Integrity and Student Responsibility’ in the 2011-12 *Academic Calendar*.

<b>MARKING SCHEME:</b>			
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<i>Excellent</i>		<i>Satisfactory</i>	
A+	90-100	C+	67-69.9
A	85-89.9	C	63-66.9
A-	80-84.9	C-	60-62.9
<i>Good</i>		<i>Marginal</i>	
B+	77-79.9	D	50-59.9
B	73-76.9	<i>Fail</i>	
B-	70-72.9	F	00-49.9

### Accessing and Using Writing Help Online (WHO)

1. You need to add Writing Help Online as a *separate* course in Banner Self-Service – you cannot access it through your Political Science 1210 course. Students often wonder why they can't access WHO, and it's almost always because they are trying to access it through the credit course they're registered in. So make sure that you register for Writing Help Online in Banner the same way you added this course), *by adding the CRN # indicated in the handout*. Don't worry: Writing Help Online is a no-fee, non-credit "course", so you won't get charged for it.
2. You can then access WHO (which shows up as Writing Help Online) the same way that you access your other Blackboard courses. Log in to SMUport, click on the Student Academics tab, and click on My Courses. Writing Help Online will be listed as one of your courses.
3. For this class, you need to complete five modules: 1. Paragraphs, 2. Citations, 3. Introductions, 4. Thesis Statements, and 5. Conclusions. To find these modules, enter the section of WHO designated for this course (GAON) and then click on the appropriate icon.
4. You need to complete and pass all of the **Levels (One, Two and sometimes Three)** of *each* assigned module in order to receive your 10% (don't worry – they're not super-long). You can complete the quizzes as many times as you need to in order to get a passing grade. The grade for a pass is written on your submission message.
5. To check the grade for your quiz, click on the Assessment tab.
6. The quiz questions are based on the information included in Level One, so if you don't read the information, you probably won't pass the quizzes. Save yourself time and make sure that you read *and understand* the information in Level One before completing any of the quizzes.
7. If you have any technical problems or questions about the course, please email **who@smu.ca**, *not your course professor*. The writing centre checks email every day from Monday to Friday, so they will respond within 24 hours (not including weekends or holidays). The hand-out from the Writing Centre contains detailed instructions on how to register in and access WHO.