POL 350: Contemporary European Political Theory

Syllabus: Spring 2013

Class meets from 4:00 to 5:20 p.m. in Melville Library room W-4535.

Instructor: F. Myers.
Office: Social and Behavioral Science Bldg., Room S-739.
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and by appt.

About this course:

This course introduces students to significant examples of twentieth century political theory and ideology, with appropriate historical background reaching back to the eighteenth century. We will group theories generally into the following categories: Liberalism; socialism (including Marxism); conservatism; fascism, and new liberation movements.

The course counts toward fulfillment of the Category I (European Cultures) requirement of the Diversified Education Curriculum (DEC).

After an initial series of background lectures, classes will be conducted as much as possible through group discussion of the readings. I expect to devote some part of class each week to discussion almost exclusively, making attendance required. Students are expected to have read the assigned materials before they are discussed in class.

Textbooks for the course: The following books should be purchased and brought to class as they are to be discussed. All are available in the University Bookstore and in the Stony Books bookstore on Route 25A.

1. Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal (Eighth Edition, Pearson/Longman, 2011). This is cited below as DEMOCRATIC IDEAL. Students may also use either the sixth (2006) or the seventh (2009) edition of this book, which may be available for purchase at a lower price.

2. Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader (eighth edition, Pearson/Longman, 2011). This is cited below as Ball and Dagger READER. Students may also use the sixth edition (2006) or the seventh edition (2009) of this book, which may possibly be purchased used for a lower price. The same assigned readings are available in those editions as in the eighth edition, but with slight alterations in the numbering. If any students use either of these editions, I will supply the numbering of the assignments early in the semester.


In addition, the following books on the history of Europe in the 20th Century have been placed on reserve. You should read sections of one or all of these books on topics that you feel you should know more about. These books are:

Sheri Berman, *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe’s Twentieth Century.*
Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes.*

(The literature on the topics taken up in this course is enormous. In addition to the required readings, I have listed a few titles as recommended readings. During the semester, I will offer suggestions for collateral reading on specific topics. Students should also note that many recommended readings are given at the ends of chapters in Ball and Dagger, *DEMOCRATIC IDEAL.*)

**Course Goals:** This course is designed to prepare you to:

- Understand the connections between the eighteenth and nineteenth century backgrounds of European ideologies and their manifestations in the twentieth century and today.
- Read and display familiarity with the some of the major statements (i.e., primary sources) of European political ideology, particularly in the twentieth century.
- Acquire some detailed knowledge of one particular ideology by writing a clear, well-argued research paper.
- See the connections between the arguments of the major ideologies and their historical contexts.
- Develop concepts and analytical tools for analyzing ideological arguments
- Engage in oral discussion on the subject of specific significant texts of European political theory and ideology.

**Course Requirements:**

1. There will be an essay test probably in the fifth week of the term. This will count about 25 percent of the final course grade.

2. There will be a paper assignment, the details of which will be given out later. This assignment will count for 30 percent of the final grade in the course.

3. Every student must participate in class discussions. At all times all students are expected to have questions and comments on the readings and lectures. For this
reason, class attendance is critically important for every student. This part of the course will count 10 percent of the course grade.

4. There will be a final examination at a date and at a location to be announced later. This examination will be cumulative, covering the entire course. It will count 35 percent of the final grade. The details of the examination's location will be announced later.

**COURSE OUTLINE**


*Required readings:*

- Ball and Dagger, *DEMOCRATIC IDEAL*, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Ball and Dagger, *READER*, Reading #1.1, "Ideology: the Career of a Concept."

*Recommended*


*Required readings:*

- Ball and Dagger, *DEMOCRATIC IDEAL*, chapter 3.
- Ball and Dagger *READER*, Readings #3.1 (Hobbes); #3.2 (Locke); #3.4 (Declaration of Independence); #3.5 (Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen); #3.6 (Smith); #3.7 (Kant); #3.10 (Green).

*Recommended:*

- Gilbert, 3-148 (this reading may be spread over Weeks 2, 3, and 4).
**Week 4: Pre-WWI Conservatism.** The reaction against liberalism. Burke, de Maistre, and others.

*Required readings:*

*DEMOCRATIC IDEAL*, chapter 4.
Ball and Dagger *READER*, readings #4.1 (Burke); #4.2 (de Maistre); #4.3 (Oakeshott).

*[Note: The essay test will come at this point in the course.]*

**Weeks 5 and 6: Marxism, Democratic Socialism, and Bolshevism**

*Required readings:*

*DEMOCRATIC IDEAL*, Chapters 5 and 6.
Ball and Dagger *READER*, Part Five: selections #5.1 (More); #5.2 (Owen); #5.3 (Marx and Engels); #5.4 (Marx); #6.1 (Bernstein); #6.2 (Lenin); #6.3 (Trotsky); #6.4 (Bakunin), #6.6 *Goldman), #6.8 (Christian Socialist Movement).

*Recommended readings:*

Sheri Berman, *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe’s Twentieth Century.*
Karl Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies.*
David McLellan, *Karl Marx: His Life and Thought.*
Leslak Kolakowski, *Main Currents of Marxism*, 3 volumes.
Gilbert, pages 138-144; 183-191; 311-317.
George Lichtheim, *Marxism in Modern France.*

**Week 7: Fascism and Nazism**

*Required readings:*

*DEMOCRATIC IDEAL*, Chapter 7.
Ball and Dagger *READER*, readings #7.1 (Gobineau); #7.2 (Mussolini); #7.3 (Rocco); #7.4 (Hitler).

*Recommended readings on fascism and Nazism*

Gilbert, Chapter 8.
R. Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism*
W. Laqueur: (ed.), *Fascism: A Reader*
R. Griffin (ed.), Fascism.
R. Soucy, French Fascism: The First Wave, 1924-1932;
D. Beetham (ed.), Marxists in Face of Fascism: Writings by Marxists on Fascism from the Interwar Period (1980).
K. Lunn and R. Thurlow (eds), British Fascism: Essays on the Radical Right in Interwar Britain (1980).

Weeks 8: European Christian Democracy

Required readings:  Leo XIII, Encyclical Rerum Novarum (on course Blackboard),

Recommended readings:

John-Paul II, Encyclical Laborem Exercens.

Weeks 9 and 10: The Revival of Liberalism (known as conservatism in the US)


Week 11: The New Left and the "Greens"

Required readings:

DEMOCRATIC IDEAL, chapters 8 and 9.
Ball and Dagger READER, #8.4 (Wollstonecraft) and #8.5 (Olympe de Gouges).

Recommended:

Gilbert, Chapter 14.
Anna Bramwell, The Fading Of The Greens: The Decline of Environmental Politics in The West (Yale)
Sara Parkin, The Life and Death of Petra Kelly (Pandora)
Petra Kelly, Thinking Green: Essays on Environmentalism, Feminism and Nonviolence Paralax).
Weeks 12 and 13: Ideology after the Cold War.

Required readings:

Habermas, The Divided West (entire book).
DEMOCRATIC IDEAL, Chapter 11: "Postscript."

Recommended:

Axel Honneth, Pathologies of Reason: On the Legacy of Critical Theory, chapter 2, pp. 19-42/ (on reserve)
Jon Simons, ed., From Kant to Levi-Strauss: The Background to Contemporary Critical Theory.

Week 14: Conclusion.

Last part of course, spring 2013

April 16: CD and beginning Hayek
April 18: Hayek
April 23: Hayek
April 25: Crosland and New Left
April 30: New Left
May 2: Habermas and Frankfurt School
May 7: Habermas
May 9: Conclusion

Note: The University Senate Undergraduate and Graduate Councils have authorized that the following required statements appear in all teaching syllabi.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center)
Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity:

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report and suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

Critical Incident Management:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

Other Notes:

Blackboard will be available for this course. It can be used for accessing course documents, communicating with the instructor or other students, and possibly for some required and recommended readings.

Students should not bring any food or drink, except water, into the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off.