

PSCI 3309 (A)
Modern Political Ideologies
Monday 11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.

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Course Description

An ideology is a set of beliefs about the world as it is and how we would like it to be. Those beliefs can be rooted in religion, economics, science, technology, philosophy, tradition, or any number of other things. Throughout this course we are going to explore a variety of ideologies to better understand both what they are and how they are used in a political sense. The purpose of this course is **not** to determine which ideology is ‘best’ or ‘correct’, but rather to equip ourselves with a vocabulary that can be applied to the political actions that we see and experience in the world around us. Political behaviour does not always fit into tidy, coherent boxes, but by examining these ideal types we can prepare ourselves to better engage with their variations and deviations. Our exploration of ideologies will involve carefully reading philosophical texts and applying what we read to a range of other kinds of texts to see if we can better understand them. This is a hard thing to do and we will struggle with it as points, but we will aim to make it as productive as struggle as possible.

Course Texts – Available at *Haven Books* [43 Seneca Street]

- Graphic Novel: Moore, Alan and Dave Gibbons. *Watchmen*. 1987.
- Graphic Novel: Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*. 2007.
- Miscellaneous selections on **cuLearn**. We will also be examining three films: *Fight Club*, *Snowpiercer*, and *Starship Troopers*. These are not available at Haven Books, but we will discuss this on the first day of class.

Evaluation

	Attendance	5%
	In Class Response	15%
10 February	Paper Proposal	10%
2 March	<i>Watchmen</i> Reflection	15%
6 April	Term Paper	30%
25 April	Take Home Exam	25%

Marking rubrics are available on cuLearn.

Attendance (5%): Being present for lecture and discussions will be an important part of working through this course material. 5% of your final grade will be determined solely based on your attendance.

In Class Response (15%): Each of the five course sections has an accompanying discussion week. On the first day of class, you will sign up for a discussion week and you will then be responsible for coming to that discussion week prepared to critically respond to the prior lecture *and* the readings. This might take the form of confusion that emerged throughout the week, disagreements with how the material was presented, or avenues you would like to further explore. You do not have to worry about doing this alone, because each discussion week will be split among roughly 1/5 of your peers. The critical response will be split into two parts:

- **Discussion Question:** By 11:59pm on the Sunday prior to class, you will upload a discussion question to cuLearn. I will collect all of these questions and provide them *anonymously* to the entire class. They will be marked on the thoughtfulness of the question and whether it shows a serious attempt to engage with the reading material, but keep in mind that they are also meant to spark a conversation.
- **In Class Contributions:** Throughout this class, you will also be expected to participate in the class discussion. There will be a handful of you who are all being marked that week, so it is important to remember it is not about *how much* you speak, but rather about the quality of your contributions. If you are unable to share space with your peers, it will negatively impact your grade here.

Watchmen Reflection (15%): Due 11:30am 2 March. This is a 2 page response to the *Watchmen* text that requires no outside research. On 10 February you will be provided a prompt to frame your writing. The goal here is for you to spend a couple hours thinking through a question and carefully writing those thoughts in a clear and coherent manner. For this reflection, avoid broad claims that are difficult to prove (“Since the beginning of time...”) and avoid “I” language (“I feel...”, “I think...”). Instead focus on logically organizing your thoughts around your answer and cutting anything that gets in the way of expressing it.

A Note on Formatting: The assignment calls for 2 pages of *content* (approximately 500-550 words). There is no need for a title page, but you should include your name, student number, and the course code in the header. For the purposes of this assignment (*and this assignment only*) you do not require a full bibliography: footnote citations will suffice. Additionally, please double space your papers and use 12 point Times New Roman with 1/2 inch margins.

Paper Proposal (10%): *Due 11:30am 10 February to cuLearn.* To better equip you for the final paper, you will be required to write a two page proposal. You are not expected to have sketched out your entire argument, but you will need to have at least started to consider what it could be. This includes a preliminary thesis statement and a plan of attack: what are the claims you want to make and how do you intend on researching them? You will also have to put some thought into the “So what?” question. Why does your proposed topic matter? Are you making the case that the ideological content is ‘hidden’ or unexpected? Does it serve to reinforce or subvert the status quo? All of these considerations should take up a single page. The second page is an annotated bibliography of at least 5 sources (at least of which must be 3 scholarly). Your annotations should include a very brief explanation as to what purpose the source will serve in your argument.

Another Note on Formatting: There is no need for a title page, but you should include your name, student number, and the course code in the header.

Term Paper (30%): *Due 11:30am 6 April to cuLearn. 3000 words (of content).* This assignment is about taking the ideological frameworks that we have looked at throughout the course and finding them in the world around you. You will be required to choose an ideology and make an argument about how a particular “text” expresses or develops that ideology. As will be apparent throughout the semester, what I mean by “text” can be fairly broadly understood: film and television, music, novels and short stories, journalism, video games, art installations, court cases and government documents, *et cetera*. At its core, this paper asks you to identify ideological content that might be ‘disguised’ as something else, whether that disguise is entertainment, news, history, or art. As such, there is a great deal of flexibility in how you approach the topic, but you are expected to bridge theoretical content with a worldly application. You might focus on the idea of socialist class struggle and explore how it is expressed in Jordan Peele’s *Us*; or you might pick up on the deep suspicion of the state that is found in anarchism or libertarianism and how it shows up in Alan Moore’s *V for Vendetta* or Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Dispossessed*; or you might look to the legislation that grants rights to the Whanganui River in New Zealand as an application of environmentalism.

Late Assignments: If an assignment is not submitted to cuLearn when it is due, without valid *prior* arrangements, it will receive a 5% penalty per day that it is late for up to 7 days – after which assignments will not be accepted.

Take Home Exam: (25%): *Due 11:55pm 25 April to cuLearn.* You will receive the exam questions on the last day of class. You can expect part of it to be structured like the *Watchmen* Reflection assignment, but with *Persepolis* as the prompt.

Schedule

Week 1: 6 January Introduction

- Sign Up for In Class Responses

Week 2: 13 January Liberalisms

- Lecture Week
 - Madison, James. "No. 10". *The Federalist*. 1787.
 - Kant, Immanuel. "What Is Enlightenment?". 1784.
 - Mill, John Stuart. "Chapter One: Introductory". *On Liberty*. 1859.

Week 3: 20 January Liberalisms II

- Discussion Week
 - Graphic Novel: Moore, Alan and Dave Gibbons *Watchmen*. DC Comics, 1987.
 - Soundtrack: Miranda, Lin-Manuel. *Hamilton: An American Musical*. 2015.

Week 4: 27 January Conservatism, Fundamentalism, Secularism

- Lecture Week
 - Berlinerblau, Jacques. "Secularism Is Not Atheism". 2012.
 - Fosdick, Henry Emerson. "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" 1922.
 - Oakeshott, Michael. "On Being Conservative". 1991.

Week 5: 3 February Conservatism, Fundamentalism, Secularism II

- Discussion Week
 - Film: Fincher, David. *Fight Club*. 1999.
 - Short Story: Vonnegut, Kurt. "Harrison Bergeron". 1961.
 - Poem: Hecht, Jennifer. "Please Answer All Three Of The Following Essay Questions". 2001.

Week 6: 10 February Environmentalism, Feminism, Pacifism I

- Lecture Week
 - de Gouges, Olympe. "Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen". 1791.
 - Gandhi. "Chapter XVII: Passive Resistance" *Hind Swaraj*. 1908.
 - Plumwood, Val. "Human vulnerability and the experience of being prey". 1995.
 - Truth, Sojourner. "Ain't I A Woman?" 1861.

Week 7: 17 February Family Day [No Class]

Week 8: 24 February **Environmentalism, Feminism, Pacifism II**

- Discussion Week
 - Graphic Novel: Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. Pantheon Books, 2000.
 - Short Story: Twain, Mark. "The War Prayer". 1905.

Week 9: 2 March **Marxism and Socialism I**

- Lecture Week
 - Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. "Preamble" & "Chapter One: Proletarians and Communists". *The Communist Manifesto*. 1848.
 - Luxemburg, Rosa. "Conquest of Political Power," in *Social Reform or Revolution*. 1900.
 - Sanders, Bernie. "My Vision For Democratic Socialism in America". 2015.

Week 10: 9 March **Marxism and Socialism II**

- Discussion Week
 - Film: Joon-ho, Boon. *Snowpiercer*. 2013.
 - Poem: de Cleyre, Voltairine. "The Hurricane". 1889.
 - Album: Springsteen, Bruce. *The Ghost of Tom Joad*. 1995.

Week 11: 16 March **Nationalism and Populism**

- No Readings: Use the time to work on your papers

Week 12: 23 March **Fascism, Anarchism, Libertarianism I**

- Lecture Week
 - Mussolini, Benito. "The Doctrine of Fascism". 1932.
 - Kropotkin, Peter. "Chapter One," *The Conquest of Bread*. 1892.
 - McElroy, Wendy. "Chapter Six: Individualist Feminism: A True Defense of Pornography". 1995.

Week 13: 30 March **Fascism, Anarchism, Libertarianism II**

- Discussion Week
 - Film: Verhoeven, Paul. *Starship Troopers*. 1997.
 - Soundtrack: Mitchell, Anaïs. *Hadestown*. 2019.
 - Short Story: Le Guin, Ursula K. "Ile Forest". 1976.

Week 14: 6 April **Conclusion**

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts:

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: "The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.