

Common Course Outline
POLS 160
Political Philosophy and Ideology
3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

POLS 160- 3 credits- Political Philosophy and Ideology investigates the major ideologies and philosophies of the modern world such as nationalism, fascism, socialism, classical liberalism, conservatism, Marxism-Leninism, and neo-conservatism along with the newer ideologies of the extreme left and right. The character of American political ideologies will be analyzed and compared. Students integrate contemporary work in political philosophy and examine political thought and contributions from other civilizations and how philosophy relates to ideology.

3 credits

Co-requisites: ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. evaluate different political philosophers and the problems they address;
2. compare and contrast various political philosophers, their beliefs and theories on life, politics and ideology;
3. identify important 20th century and contemporary political philosophers;
4. outline the core ideas of major political philosophers;
5. describe the role of nationalism on a country and its people;
6. explain the concept of ideology and the types of political ideologies;
7. assess the factors supporting various ideologies and how these drive current political movements;
8. identify the role of values and ideology in political life;
9. discuss one's own values and assumptions about politics, government, and public life;
10. explain how fascism, socialism, classical liberalism, conservatism, Marxism-Leninism, neo-conservatism and other ideas came to dominate during various historical eras;
11. evaluate the differences between American liberalism and conservatism;
12. outline how various ideological movements have changed over time; and
13. debate how political ideology influences government policy.

Major Topics:

- I. Meet the Political Philosophers
 - a. The Greeks: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle

- b. Machiavelli
- c. The British: More, Hobbes, Locke, Burke and Mill
- d. Other thinkers: deTocqueville, Marx, Lenin, Gandhi
- e. American Political Philosophers: 1776-Present

II. Ideology from Europe to America

- a. Nationalism and Ideology
- b. Ideology of the 1800's: socialism, classical liberalism, conservatism, Marxism
- c. Ideology of the 1900's: fascism, Marxism-Leninism, Islam and neo-conservatism
- d. Ideology in America Liberal v. Conservative
- e. Other American Viewpoints: Libertarianism, Feminism, Environmentalism.
- f. What is the next ism?

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Class participation in at least 5 collaborations, debates, oral presentations and/or online discussion forums about current political events and topics

A minimum of 4 examinations

A research assignment or project on a selected topic of interest and approved by the instructor

Other Course Information:

This course is a Political Science elective.