

POLS 160

Political Philosophy and Ideology

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

POLS 160 – 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 course also examines the major philosophy leaders past and present and their influence on political development. The character of American political ideologies is 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.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students 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 liberalism and conservatism in America;
12. outline how various ideological movements have changed over time;
13. discuss how ideology has influenced and changed political parties;
14. debate how political ideology influences government policy using a variety of technological resources; and
15. find, evaluate, use, and cite academic sources on political issues and events based on criteria discussed in the course according to the timeliness, credibility, and reliability.

Major Topics

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

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- b. Machiavelli
 - c. The British: More, Hobbes, Locke, Burke, and Mill
 - d. Other thinkers: deTocqueville, Marx, Lenin, and 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, and Marxism
 - c. Ideology of the 1900's: fascism, Marxism-Leninism, Islam, and neo-conservative
 - d. Ideology in America Liberal v. Conservative
 - e. Other American Viewpoints: Libertarianism, Feminism, and Environmentalism.
 - f. What is the next "ism"?

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Class participation in five collaborations, debates, oral presentations and/or online discussion forums about current political events and topics
- Four examinations
- A research assignment or project on a selected topic of interest and approved by the instructor

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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