



Political Science 412
The Age of Ideology
Fall 2018

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Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building, 160
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Mon-Thurs,
And by appointment

Required books

Burke, Edmund (2014). *Revolutionary Writings*, edited by Iain Hampsher-Monk. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
ISBN: 9780521605090

Griffin, Roger ed. (1995). *Fascism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 0192892495

Marx, Karl (2013). *The Communist Manifesto*, 2nd edition, edited by Frederic L. Bender. New York, NY: W.W. Norton.
ISBN: 9780393935608

Voegelin, Eric (2004). *Science, Politics, and Gnosticism*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books.
ISBN: 9781932236484

Wollstonecraft, Mary (2009). *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, edited by Diedre Lynch. New York, NY: W.W. Norton.
ISBN: 9780393929744

Course Description

The Age of Ideology deals with the transformation of political theory as a philosophical enterprise into what might be described as revolutionary justification for the immanentization of the Christian eschaton. While an examination of every ideological movement of modernity is beyond the scope of this course (indeed, there are so many ideological variations that a complete examination of all of them would require multiple semesters), the focus will be upon what are perhaps the most consequential: fascism (and its variant national socialism) and Marxist communism. The course will begin, however,

with reflections and expansion of the natural law tradition as embodied in Burke and Wollstonecraft. This will provide a starting point by way of comparison.

Course objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will have achieved the following student learning outcomes.

1. Critical Thinking—Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
2. Communications—Student Communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable.
3. Personal Responsibility—Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.
4. Social Responsibility—Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
5. Students will recognize the moral and spiritual elements of ideological thinking.
6. Students will demonstrate proficiency in research skills.

Instructional methods

For the most part this class will rely upon students to accomplish the course objectives above. Students will engage important texts and with one another through interactive dialogue with the instructor and each other. From time to time there may be a traditional lecture depending upon the needs of the class.

Grading

As an upper level political science course, this class will emphasize critical and analytical thinking in addition to developing research skills. The grading scale below emphasizes this. Each student will be responsible for 4 short analytical reaction papers to the readings and discussion questions (at least 3 per reading) when not writing the reaction papers, in addition to contributing to the class discussion. At mid-term (October 16), students are responsible for turning in a literature review related to some aspect of the course with an eye toward creating a final research paper. The research paper will be due on December 6.

Critical/Analytical reaction papers	100 points
Discussion Questions	50 points
Class Participation	50 points
Literature Review	100 points
Final Paper	100 points

Final grades will be assigned using the following scale:

364-400	A
324-453	B
280-323	C
240-280	D
0-239	F

Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily and you would be well-advised to attend every class—if for no other reason than the fact that experience demonstrates that you will not do well if you are not here. Indeed, 12.5% of your grade requires you to be here since you cannot participate in the class if you are absent.

Of course attendance is more than merely being in your seat on time (although timeliness is a virtue). You are expected to come to class prepared for class. Readings assigned for particular dates should be completed prior to coming to class.

Finally, if you need to leave the class for any reason while it is in session, please make sure to take your belongings with you, as you will not be readmitted to class on that day. If you have to use the restroom you may do so before and after class, but not during. If you do have to leave class, you will, of course, be marked “absent” for that day.

Electronics Policy

We are fortunate to live in a technologically advanced time. With that said, the following guidelines must be observed. You may use a laptop or tablet in class—provided it is being used for class. Avoid social networking or browsing during class. If it is discovered that you are engaged in such activity your use of electronic devices in the course will be curtailed.

With regard to cellular telephones: one person in this class has permission to leave his on during class—and it is not you. It is entirely possible that you will survive for two hours without using your telephone. Your instructor reserves the right to answer any telephone that rings during class or respond to any text that is received. Texting during class is prohibited. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in your being removed from the course.

Exigent Circumstances

Your professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus based on exigent circumstances. If any change is made, you will be informed.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Campus Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Conduct: “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”

Nondiscrimination Notice: Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.