



“It is a well-known fact that those people who most want to rule people are, ipso facto, those least suited to do it.” Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy

Political Science 412.01E: The Age of Ideology

Fall 2025

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Office Location: 160 Ferguson Social Sciences

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-2:00
and by appointment

Course Information

Required texts

Camus, Albert. *The Rebel*. Penguin Random House. (ISBN: 9780679722843)

Griffin, Roger, ed. *Fascism*. Oxford University Press (ISBN: 97801928924925)

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert Tucker. W.W. Norton. (ISBN: 9780393090406)

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Portable Nietzsche*. Penguin Rand House. (ISBN: 9780140150629)

De Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*, edited and abridged by Richard Heffner. Signet (ISBN: 9780451531605)

Eric Voegelin. *Science, Politics, and Gnosticism*. Ingram. (ISBN: 9780895264190)

These books in these editions are required for this course. Ebooks, Kindle, etc., **are not** acceptable substitutions for the actual books. There will be in-class writing assignments. If you have an edition that is not on the list above, you will not be allowed to use it to complete those assignments.

Material and documents will also be posted to D2L/Brightspace.

Student Learning Outcomes

The successful student will:

1. Synthesize material to develop and present a coherent narrative.
2. Develop and present a literature review review.
3. Compose and present at least one academic paper.
4. Critically analyze primary and secondary materials.
5. Engage as scholars with their peers both through the presentation of original material and by serving as discussants for the work others.

Course Requirements

Attendance: You should attend class—after all, you paid for it. Attendance will be taken during every class, since attendance information is now required by the state and by the office of financial aid. However, as noted above, your education is yours to do with as you will. Now, with that said, experience has demonstrated that regular attendance is essential to success in class. To reiterate, your instructor DOES NOT lecture from a textbook. What this means is that there will be material delivered in class that you will need to succeed in the course.

Furthermore, it is our intention to perform as a “seminar.” For you, this means that you will engage both with the material and one another. You have a responsibility to yourself and your classmates to attend class and take part in class discussions.

There will be a bit more than 30 class meetings this semester. You have two absences that you may use for any reason at all (this is the equivalent of missing a week of class). After those two absences you will lose 5 points a day for each absence from your attendance grade. You start the semester with 50 attendance points. Exceptions may be granted based upon legitimate, extreme, **verifiable** circumstances.

It is an odd thing, but a university course (and therefore a university education) is that rarest of things; something for which you pay but then try to figure out how to avoid. It makes absolutely zero sense, but here we are....

In addition, please bring the assigned reading for any given day to class with you so that we can refer directly to it.

And speaking of the assigned reading: Attendance is more than merely showing up. You are expected to arrive prepared. Preparedness means that you have done the assigned reading prior to coming to class. More importantly, you are expected to have read the material and actually thought about what you read. It is not enough to skim through the text and then congratulate yourself on having “done the reading.” You should engage with the text as you read it. During your reading you should take notes, underline or highlight important passages, write down questions that are raised by the text (and try to answer them), compare what you are reading with your own experience and understanding of the world.

The readings are an **essential** part of this course. If you fail to complete the readings, you will probably fail this course.

Electronics Policy: Experience has demonstrated that students do not really understand appropriate ways to use technology while in class. In fact, other than classes about technology, there may not be an effective way to use technology in class.

Cell phones

Numerous studies have demonstrated a strong correlation between phone use in class and poor academic performance (at least three different studies have determined that phone use in class may result in the drop of an entire letter grade for students who insist that the world will end if they aren't engaged in texting or scrolling through social media). For this reason, the following guidelines are in effect for this class.

You are not allowed to use your phone during class.

You will place your phone face down, either off or set to silent (this includes flash notifications) on the desk in front of you where the phone itself is visible. Once placed there, you should not touch it again until class is over. If you do touch it, use it, watch the screen, text, etc., you will be given a five point penalty for each infraction to be deducted from your final grade. This penalty will be assessed—there is no appeal. Please do not try to make an appeal or excuses. If your telephone rings, flashes, vibrates, etc. during class, you will likewise be assessed a penalty. This penalty will be three points off your final grade for each infraction.

Laptops and Tablets

The use of laptops and tablets for note-taking must be approved by the professor. Again, science indicates that taking notes by hand is more effective at helping students process, consider, analyze, and retain information appropriate to the university as a learning environment and for persons receiving a university degree. **Only** the most extreme, verifiable circumstances justify the use of laptops in class.

Earbuds, Media Players, and Other Electronic Devices

While it is possible to carry your entertainment options wherever you go and wherever you happen to be, this class is not such a venue. Earbuds, headphones, etc. are a distraction for both you, as a student who is supposed to be actively engaged and responsible for your own education, and your professor. Put simply, it is rude to be listening to something else when you are in class. Failure to remove such distractions will incur a penalty. For each violation you will have five points deducted from your overall grade. Rather than listening to your earbuds or headphones, you should be engaged in “active listening” and engagement with what is happening in class.

For further reading on the deleterious effects of technology:

[Cell phone use in class](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2158244015573169)

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2158244015573169>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01443410.2018.1489046>

<https://www.psypost.org/2018/05/just-cell-phone-possession-can-impair-learning-study-suggests-51228>

<http://www.longwood.edu/news/2015/college-students-test-scores-suffer/>

<https://www.mnn.com/family/family-activities/blogs/students-get-better-grades-when-phones-are-banned>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cellphones-classrooms-contribute-failing-grades-study/story?id=56837614>

<https://news.rutgers.edu/cellphone-distraction-classroom-can-lead-lower-grades-rutgers-study-finds/20180723#.XMju4P1Kipp>

Note-taking

<https://linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/Teaching/papers/MuellerAndOppenheimer2014OnTakingNotesByHand.pdf>

<https://www.collegeraptor.com/find-colleges/articles/tips-tools-advice/laptop-vs-notebook-better-take-notes/>

https://www.eecs.yorku.ca/course_archive/2015-16/F/2011/laptop%20in%20classroom%20article.pdf

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/SingleStudyReviews/wwc_carter_022217.pdf

https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/science/whats-lost-as-handwriting-fades.html?_r=0

Active listening

<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-be-a-good-listener-31438>

<https://www.educationcorner.com/listening-skills.html>

<https://blog.cengage.com/tips-students-become-better-listener/>

<https://positivepsychologyprogram.com/communication-activities-adults-students/>

Hats, sunglasses, etc.

Your instructor has many hats, but he does not wear them in class. Students are not to wear hats or sunglasses in class. Your professor reserves the right to restrict other accessories as necessary to maintain an appropriate learning environment.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of any form of cheating or academic misconduct related to your role as a student. Examples of academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying another student's work, cheating on exams, quizzes, and/or assignments. In addition to the traditional forms of academic dishonesty, **the use of AI in the composition of written assignments is forbidden**. Writing and thinking are inextricably linked and, since the goal of the university is to train you to think, you should do your own writing.

There is another reason that you should do your own writing. Experience has demonstrated that AI is not a very good writer. In other words, you are more likely to receive a better grade than for your own writing than that created by AI.

The penalty for academic dishonesty in this class is an immediate "0" on the graded material on which the cheating was discovered. For those assignments that might otherwise be among grades dropped in the calculation of final grades (readings quizzes for example), the "0" recorded for academic dishonesty will not be among those dropped.

In addition, in accordance with university procedure [13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty](#), you will be reported to the academic dean of the college in which your major department is housed as well as the department head in your major department so that a record of your offense may be maintained for purposes of future disciplinary action.

Under the policy, repeat instances of academic dishonesty may result in expulsion from the university. With this in mind, consider that any short-term gain that you hope to attain by engaging in unethical behavior is simply not worth it.

AI Statement

East Texas A&M University has adopted the following statement regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for inclusion on faculty syllabi:

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Of course, this statement is wholly inadequate. In the context of this class, **DO NOT USE AI**. Programs that save you all the trouble of reading, thinking, and presenting your thoughts and

ideas are antithetical to university **education**. If it is apparent that you used AI in writing any assignment in this course, you will receive a 0 on that assignment with no opportunity to make it up.

The truth is that recent studies have found that AI may be making it more difficult for people to actually learn. In other words, AI has had the effect of making people even more stupid. For this reason, you are not to use it for, or in, this class. Part of learning is grappling with the material. You are not doing yourself any favors if you are using AI to avoid that.

Conduct

Student conduct in the university is governed by university procedure [13.02.99.R0.06 Standards of Student Conduct](#). The university requires that all syllabi include a statement from section 2.2 of that procedure. Section 2.2 of the policy deals with student “obligations and responsibilities.” Under the terms of the procedure, students have the obligation “to follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior commensurate with aspiration implied by a college education.”

Bear in mind that your behavior is not only a reflection upon you, but also the university. It is my expectation that you will demonstrate respect for the institution, your professors, and your fellow students, as well as your own education. This is true even in the context of courses in which controversial topics and issues (such as a political science course) are discussed. (I will explain why you were taught to never discuss religion and politics in polite company on the first class day.)

Your professor will serve as the arbiter of what constitutes appropriate respect and behavior in the context of this class. Students who fail to treat the institution, class, professor, and/or other students may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Contrary to what many people seem to believe, a university education is not a right. Rather it is privilege—and it ought to be treated that way. You should remember that this course is part of YOUR education. Your education is, in turn, YOUR responsibility. Sadly, some students seek to shift responsibility to others: faculty, other students, etc. This is unfortunate and demonstrates an unwillingness to take ownership of what belongs to you. Your professors and other university staff are here to help you to succeed, but it is up to you to decide that you are going to succeed and take the steps necessary to make that happen.

I cannot force you to do your homework, read the material assigned for class, or study material presented in class, etc.—that is up to you. With that said, your success (in all of your courses) is dependent upon **you** doing those sorts of things. If you choose not to, and your academic performance is less than adequate, it is not the fault of your professor or anyone else. **It is yours.**

On a related note, almost every class that university professors and instructors teach there has, among its students, that one person that knows so much more than anyone else, including the instructor. Don't be that student. It is disrespectful to all of us and, if it becomes too distracting for the instructor, you may be dropped from the course. Your instructor and other students in the class do not have the time or the energy to deal with this phenomenon.

Finally, most classes will end with an admonition to be kind. You never know the burdens that those with whom you interact may be carrying. Kindness does not cost anyone anything and it may benefit someone in ways that you cannot imagine—in addition to the benefits that you will receive from the active exercise of civility and kindness. It is good for them AND good for you.

Grading

In this class there will be two exams: a midterm and a final. In addition, you will write a proper literature review of a subject related to the reading materials in the class. This will require you to be self-motivated and engage in research outside of class. After all, one cannot write a literature review unless one is familiar with the literature. Given how ubiquitous AI is, we will have in class writing assignments and periodic readings quizzes in class. The number of readings quizzes is dependent upon you. If it becomes apparent that students are not doing the reading, there will be an immediate reading quiz. Finally, there will be opportunities for you to serve as discussion leader. Your task as a discussion leader is to prompt and engage with your colleagues on the readings and the issues and questions raised by them.

Your grade will consist of the following elements:

Attendance	50 points
Class participation	150 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
In Class Writing	100 points
Literature Review	50 points
Readings Quizzes	100 points
Discussion Lead	50 points
	700 points

Final Grade Scale

637-700	A	91-100%
567-636	B	81-90%
490-536	C	70-80%
420-489	D	60-69%
0-419	F	0-59%

Course calendar

The course calendar is an estimate of where we are going to be. From time-to-time, exigent circumstances may require changes. Should these be necessary, you will be notified via D2L and in class of the changes. The readings assigned for a particular day are to be **completed** prior to attending class on that date.

1	08/26	Introduction to the Course	Philosophy and Ideology
2	08/28	Social Conditions and the March of Democracy	De Tocqueville: Author’s Introduction (26-38); Chapters 2-3 (49-58); Chapters 10-11 (95-111)

3	09/02	Democracy and Its Pitfalls	De Tocqueville: Chapters 12-13 (111-121); Chapters 26-28 (189-197); Chapter 42 (246-248); Chapter 56 (301-313)
4	09/04	The Crisis of Modernity	Voegelin, <i>Science Politics and Gnosticism</i> : Part I: Introduction (3-10); Science, Politics, and Gnosticism (11-39)
5	09/09	The Murder of God	Voegelin, The Murder of God (39-54); Part II, Mass Movements of Our Time (59-88)
6	09/11	Rebellion As Assertion and Negation	Camus, "Introduction" (3-11); "The Rebel" (13-22); "Metaphysical Rebellion" (23-25); "The Sons of Cain" (26-35)
7	09/16	Rebellion against being	Camus, "Historical Rebellion" (105-111); "State Terrorism and Irrational Terror" 175-187)
8	09/18	The Recurrence and "truth"	Nietzsche, "from <i>The Gay Science</i> " (93-102); "On Truth and Lie in the Extra-moral Sense" (42-50); "from <i>Human, All-Too-Human</i> (51-67)
9	09/23	The murder of God	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (121-145); "from <i>The Gay Science, Book V</i> (447-450)
10	09/25	Overcoming being	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (197-217); (225-236); (249-256)
11	09/30	The new moral order	Nietzsche, "from <i>Toward a Genealogy of Morals</i> " (450-454); <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> (479-513)
12	10/02	Mid-term prep	
13	10/07	Mid-term Exam	You will need at least one blue book (available from the bookstore) and a pen that uses blue or black ink
14	10/09	Introduction to Marxism	Tucker, "Introduction (xix-xlii); Engels, "Speech at the Graveside of Karl Marx" (681-683)
15	10/14	God is dead, the Marxist version	Marx, "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's <i>Philosophy of Right</i> : Introduction (51-63); "Theses on Feuerbach" (143-145)
16	10/16	History, Materialism, and Class	Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (203-217); "Wage, Labour, and Capital (203-217); "Class Struggle and the Mode of Production" (220-221)
17	10/21	Revolutionary Necessity	Marx and Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party (469-500); Marx, "The Coming Upheaval (218-219); Marx, "The Amsterdam Speech (522-524)
18	10/23	Summing up Marx	
19	10/28	Approaches to Fascism	Tucker, "Post-war Judgments on Fascism" (279-306)

20	10/30	World War I and the Rise of Fascisms	Tucker (25-32)
21	11/04	Fascism as Totalitarianism	Tucker (48-60); (61-75),
22	11/06	Origins of Nazism	Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i> (available on D2L)
23	11/11	The "Other": Scapegoats and Enemies	Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i>
24	11/13	Selling the nation: Propaganda as weapon	Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i>
25	11/18	Consolidation of Nazism	Tucker (119-139), (158-168)
26	11/20	White Christian Nationalism: Origins	Readings to be announced
27	11/25	White Christian Nationalism: Tenets	Readings to be announced
28	12/02	White Christian Nationalism: Comparative	Readings to be announced
29	12/04	Final Exam Review	
30	12/09	Comprehensive Final Exam	You will need at least one blue book and a pen that uses blue or black ink.

Counseling Center Information

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.

[If you need help, get help! Your emotional and mental well-being is very important. Many of us put a lot of pressure upon ourselves and sometimes we require support. Fortunately, East Texas A&M University recognizes this and provides services to address these issues. Take advantage of them should you need to!]

Students with Disabilities: ADA Statement

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

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Non-discrimination notice

East Texas A&M University 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. [Your instructor's side note: I will not tolerate ANY bigotry in this class on the basis of any of the categories listed in the university non-discrimination notice.]

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COVID-19 Statement

East Texas A&M University recommends the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories.

Technology Requirements

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical the requirements for the LMS:

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>