

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SEMESTER: COURSE SYLLABUS
IRL 3005: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES
CREDIT: 3 UNITS
LECTURE HOURS:
LECTURER:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We all *believe* in something, or *value* something. Whatever we believe in, or value, drives us into action-this is **ideology**. Some of us are inclined to rationalize what we believe in - thus **conserve** whatever we believe in, others of us tend to seek some changes in what we believe in - thus **reform**, while some of us are inclined to change *in toto* our view of the world - thus **revolutionize**. In other words we can be **right wing, moderate** or **left wing** or, to put it another way, we can be for the **status quo, moderate, radical** or **utopian**. We can also be **democrats, liberals, socialist, authoritarians** or **communists**. The choice of label would depend on whose view we adopt. The Contemporary Political Ideologies Course is a survey of the major ideologies and systems of modern governments, with special emphasis on democracy, authoritarianism and totalitarianism.

At the end of the course, each student is expected to:

1. Understand the major ideologies and systems of modern government with special emphasis on democracy, authoritarianism and totalitarianism;
2. Apply the major ideologies and systems of modern government to the understanding of international relations.

COURSE EVALUATION

<i>Mid-term exam</i>	<i>.30%</i>
<i>Final exam</i>	<i>.40%</i>
<i>Assignments</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Class attendance/participation</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Since this is a university course, students are expected to use proper grammar and to present material in a coherent, lucid manner. Class attendance is expected and absences will affect your ability to perform the required work in this course. More than four absences would automatically guarantee a student an 'F'. Written work must be typed and must be free of errors.

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any students found cheating in an exam will receive a grade 'F' for the course. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's ideas or words, in part or in total, without proper academic attribution. Plagiarism will result in a grade 'F' for the assignment. To protect yourself against a claim of plagiarism you should retain documentation that indicates where you found your ideas, early drafts of assignments and notes that show the progress of your work. Cheating and plagiarizing are violations of the university's policy on academic integrity. Cases of cheating and plagiarism will be handled according to university policy.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments should be double spaced, typed and not more than five pages.

Assignment one: What are your present attitudes, opinions, values and beliefs concerning politics? Are you active in political organizations? Are you indifferent, apathetic, disillusioned or cynical towards politics, public officials or political systems? Are you especially concerned about particular issues? What are your earliest, most vivid impressions about politics? (5 marks)

Assignment two: How do you think you came to think and feel politically the way you do? Which agents of socialization had the most important impact on your political beliefs? (5 marks)

Assignment three: Find at least four newspaper clippings referring to the campaigns, organizations or activities of political movements or events that are underpinned by nationalism or fascism. Explain how you know that each movement or event was linked to the particular ideology with which you identify it. (10 marks)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

- **Introduction**
- **Meaning**
- **Scope**

Week 2

- **Introduction**
- **Use**
- **Intellectuals**
- **Types**

Week 3

- **Democracy**

Week 4

- **Moral and economic liberalism**

Week 5

- **Political liberalism**

Week 6

- **Communism**

Week 7

- **Authoritarianism**

- **Dictatorship**

Week 8

Mid-semester examination

- Fascism and Nazism

Week 9

- Nazism

- Nationalism

Week 10

- Colonialism and Imperialism

Week 11

- Islamic fundamentalism

Week 12

- Third World Ideologies

Week 13

- Revision

Week 14

- Final Semester Examination