

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		11-30e	App-11/31/12	App-2/21/12

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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Proposing Department/Unit Political Science	Phone X7-2290

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Prefix Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Number and/or Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change
<i>V CONTEMPORARY</i>	
PLSC260 Political Ideas	
<i>Current Course prefix, number and full title</i>	<i>Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing</i>
2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate	
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.	
3. Program Proposals	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/> New Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<i>Current program name</i>	<i>Proposed program name, if changing</i>
4. Approvals	
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	Date
<i>David Wheeler</i>	11-12-10
Department Chair(s)	
<i>John F. Fittor</i>	11-12-2010
College Curriculum Committee Chair	
<i>Will Coff</i>	5-31-2011
College Dean	
<i>A. Ann</i>	6/2/11
Director of Liberal Studies *	
Director of Honors College *	
Provost *	
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)	
UWUCC Co-Chairs	
<i>Gail Sedquist</i>	11/31/12

* where applicable

Received
SEP 21 2011
Liberal Studies

Catalog Description

PLSC 260 Contemporary Political Ideas

3 class hours

0 lab hours

No prerequisites

3 credits

(3c-0l-3cr)

A survey of political ideas influential in contemporary politics, knowledge of which is essential for various analyses in political science. Ideas discussed include conservatism, “liberalism” or social democracy, socialism, anarchism, fascism, political Islam, and feminist and environmentalist thought.

SYLLABUS OF RECORD

I. Catalog Description

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	(3c-0l-3cr)

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II. Course Outcomes

Students will

1. Develop knowledge of contemporary political ideas through a survey of the current major perspectives.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of primary works in contemporary political thought.
3. Analyze and discuss the relationship between political and moral ideas, a relationship that is excluded in principle by some present-day social scientists.
4. Become aware of the political and social ideas that inform their own political judgments and critically reflect on whether those ideas hold up under further scrutiny.

III. Course Outline

A. Democracy (1.5 hours)

Examples of Topics and Readings:

1. The Greek Original (Pericles)
2. Contemporary Liberal Democracy: Representation and Civil Liberties (J.S. Mill)

3. The Idea of a Republic (Aristotle, Machiavelli)

B. Classical Liberalism (4.5 hours)

Examples of Topics and Readings:

1. Politics: John Locke, Tom Paine, John Stuart Mill, Herbert Hoover
2. Economics: Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman

C. Varieties of Conservatism (4.5 hours)

Examples of Topics and Readings:

1. Traditional Conservatism: Edmund Burke, Thomas Carlyle
2. Neoconservatism: Irving Kristol, The Project for a New American Century
3. Christian Fundamentalism: Dobson
4. Nationalist Conservatism: Pat Buchanan

D. American “Liberalism” and European Social Democracy (4.5 hours)

Examples of topics and readings:

1. American Liberalism: John Dewey; Howard Zinn’s *New Deal Thought*
2. European Social Democracy: Claus Offe, Jürgen Habermas

First Take-Home Essay Exam: Distributed at end of fifth week: Due one week later.

E. Socialism/Communism (4.5 hours)

Examples of topics and readings:

1. Socialism: Albert Einstein, Eduard Bernstein, Fabian Society
2. Communism and Class Struggle: Karl Marx, Mao Zedong, Ché Guevara

F. State Capitalism? (1.5 hours)

Examples of Topics and Readings:

1. What is China? (Ian Bremmer)

G. Liberation Theories (7.5 hours)

Examples of topics and readings:

1. African-Americans and Africans: Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Steven Biko
2. Feminism: Seneca Falls Declaration, Sarah Grimké, Heidi Hartmann, Marilyn Frye

3. Gay Liberation: John Corvino

Second Take-Home Essay Exam: Distributed during tenth week: Due one week later.

H. Anarchism (3 hours)

Examples of topics and readings:

1. Historic: Petyr Kropotkin, Emma Goldman
2. Contemporary: Antiglobalization participants
3. Right-Wing Anarchism?

Book Review: Due at end of twelfth week.

I. Environmental Arguments (3 hours)

Examples of topics and readings:

Environmentalism: Al Gore, Murray Bookchin and Dave Foreman, Edward Abbey

J. Varieties of Political Islam (6 hours)

Examples of topics and readings:

1. Saudi Arabia: "How We Can Coexist"
2. Ayatollah Khomeini on the Islamic Republic
3. Al Qaeda

K. Conclusion (1.5 hours)

Final Take-Home Exam distributed after thirteenth week. It is in lieu of an in-class final and will be due during the official final exam period

Culminating Activity: Class discussion of which theory or theories seem most likely to advance American prospects for the future.

IV. Evaluation Methods

To be assigned by the specific instructor. Evaluation in a course on political ideas is

especially effective through written work, including essay exams, short papers, and book reviews. The example employed here is:

75% – There will be three Take-Home Essay Exams, 6 to 8 pages, which will demonstrate the student's comprehension of various arguments, each counting 25% of the course grade.

25% – There will also be a 5 page Book Review from a list provided by the instructor.

Each exam constitutes one-fourth of the course grade. The book review also constitutes one-fourth of the course grade. The final exam will be in lieu of an in-class final.

On all written work the substantive part of the response will be the primary basis for evaluation. However grammar, logical structure, spelling, and style will also be considered in deciding the grade.

Late exams and reviews may be accepted for documented illness, work schedule conflicts, or pressing family responsibilities. Any other late exams or reviews, if accepted, will be automatically reduced by at least 20% of the individual exam or review grade.

Shortly after a topic has been introduced a question sheet on the topic will be distributed to focus the reading. For example on conservatism: Why would traditional and classical liberal conservatives be suspicious of the approach of neoconservatives regarding foreign policy? Or, What is the main point of disagreement between Hayek and Kristol?

The question sheets are only for the students's use. They need not be returned and will not affect the student's course grade.

V. Grading Scale

A = 90% or more, B = 80%-89%, C = 70%-79%, D = 60%-69%. Less than 60% is an F.

VI. Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Many of the concepts and arguments covered in this course are quite difficult and will be more deeply explored in class discussion. Also much information, **for which the student will be held responsible on the take-home exams**, will be given in class lectures.

VII. Required Readings

To be assigned by the instructor.

Preference should be given to an anthology of articles from primary sources appropriate for first and second year students, including Burke, Carlyle, Hayek, Friedman, Kristol; Berle, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Dewey; Fabian socialists, Marx, Mao Zedong, Ché Guevara; Kropotkin, Goldman; Khomeini, al Qaeda, Sayyid Qutb; Bookchin and Foreman, Abbey; Grimké, Friedan, Hartmann.

A good example of a broad reader is Nancy Love, editor, *Dogmas and Dreams: A Reader in Modern Political Ideologies*, Third Edition (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2006). Another is Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, editors, *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* Eighth Edition (NY: Pearson Longman, 2011).

Appropriate full-length books could include *On Liberty* by John Stuart Mill, *The Fatal Conceit* by Friedrich Hayek, *The Public and Its Problems* by John Dewey, *Unjust Deserts* by Alperowitz and Daly, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* by Edward Abbey, *Princeton Readings in Islamic Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*, edited by Roxanne L. Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman, and/or *Micromotives and Macrobehavior* by Thomas Schelling.

VIII. Special Resource Requirements: None.

IX. Bibliography

Abbey, Edward. *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (NY: Avon Books, 1975).

Alperowitz, Gar, and Lew Daly. *Unjust Deserts: How the Rich Are Taking Our Common Inheritance* (NY: The New Press, 2008).

Ball, Terence, and Richard Dagger, editors. *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* Eighth Edition (NY: Pearson Longman, 2011).

Bookchin, Murray, and Dave Foreman. "Defending the Earth: A Dialogue Between Murray Bookchin and Dave Foreman." (1991) In Love, editor, op. cit.

Bremmer, Ian. *The End of the Free Market: Who Wins the War Between States and*

- Corporations?* (NY: Penguin, 2010).
- Carlyle, Thomas. "Chartism." (1844) In *Critical and Miscellaneous Essays in Five Volumes* Volume IV (NY: AMS Press, 1969).
- Corvino, John. "Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments." (1997) In Ball and Dagger, op. cit.
- Dewey, John. *The Public and Its Problems* (NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1927).
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- Eisenach, Eldon, editor. *The Social and Political Thought of American Progressivism* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2006).
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- Euben, Roxanne L., and Muhammad Qasim Zaman. *Princeton Readings in Islamic Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009).
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- Friedan, Betty. "Our Revolution Is Unique." (1968) In Love, editor, op. cit.
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- Gerson, Mark. *The Essential Neo-Conservative Reader* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1996).
- Goldman, Emma. "Anarchism: What It Really Stands For." In Love. Editor, op. cit. (1910).
- Guevara, Ché. *Ché Guevara Speaks: Selected Speeches and Writings*. (NY: Pathfinder Press, 1967).
- Habermas, Jürgen. *The Postnational Constellation*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001).
- Hardin, Garrett. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162 (1968).
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- Hartmann, Heidi. "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism." In *Women and Revolution*, edited by Lydia Sargent (Boston: South End Press, 1981).
- Hayek, Friedrich. *The Fatal Conceit: The Errors of Socialism*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988).
- Hoffer, Eric. *The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements* (NY: Harper and Row Perennial, 2002 [1951]).

- Johnson, Steven. *Emergence: The Connected Lives of Ants, Brains, Cities, and Software* (NY: Simon and Schuster, 2001).
- Kazin, Michael. *The Populist Persuasion: An American History* (NY: Basic Books, 1996).
- King, Jr., Martin Luther. "Letter from Birmingham Jail." 1963. In Ball and Dagger, op. cit.
- Kristol, Irving. *Two Cheers for Capitalism* (NY: Basic Books, 1978).
- Krugman, Paul. *The Self-Organizing Economy* (London: Blackwell, 1996).
- Lippmann, Walter. *The Public Philosophy* (NY: New American Library, 1955).
- Love, Nancy S., editor. *Dogmas and Dreams* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2006).
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (various editions, 1848).
- Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty* (various editions, 1859).
- Offe, Claus. *The Contradictions of the Welfare State* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984).
- Olson, Mancur. *The Logic of Collective Action*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965).
- Ostrom, Elinor. *Governing the Commons* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Putnam, Robert. *Bowling Alone* (NY: Simon and Schuster, 2000).
- Roosevelt, Franklin Delano. "The Continuing Struggle for Liberalism." (1941). In Love, editor, op. cit.
- _____. "State of the Union Address 1944."
- Sargent, Lydia, editor. *Women and Revolution* (Boston: South End Press, 1981).
- Sargent, Lyman Tower. *Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006).
- Schelling, Thomas. *Micromotives and Macrobehavior* (NY: W. W. Norton, 1978).
- Scott, James C. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998).
- Sen, Amartya. "Rational Fools: A Critique of the Behavioural Foundations of Economic Theory." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 6 (1977).
- Sitton, John F. "Introduction" to *Marx Today: Selected Works and Recent Debates*, edited by Sitton (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010 – forthcoming).
- Zinn, Howard, editor. *New Deal Thought* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2003 [1966]).

Course Analysis Questionnaire

A1. Fit with programs: At present this course will be offered as an addition to our offerings in political thought. Unlike the others it will take a more introductory approach and covering topics that cannot be given adequate attention in the existing, more specialized courses in political thought. Its primary audience is first and second year majors in political science. There is simply no time to cover these topics in any detail in any courses in our present curriculum.

A2. This course requires no change in program requirements or existing courses. However ultimately PLSC 260 will become a required course in a revised core in all political science major tracks. The revision of the major tracks will be submitted in Fall 2010.

A3. This course has never been offered at IUP.

A4. This course is not intended to be dual-level.

A5. This course will not be offered for variable credit.

A6. Among other institutions, similar introductory courses are offered at American University, Duquesne University, and Bowling Green State University. (See appended course descriptions.) The current political theorist in the department also taught it part-time for three years at the University of Massachusetts-Boston.

A7. The skills and/or content of this course are not required by any accrediting or other agency in the discipline of political science.

B1. This course will only be taught by political science faculty.

B2. The content of this course does not overlap with any other at IUP of which I am aware.

B3. This course will not be cross-listed.

C1. Faculty resources are adequate. The new course will be accommodated by either (1) teaching any of the three existing upper-division political thought courses less frequently or (2) teaching fewer sections of PLSC 111 American Politics. The course will count as one preparation and three workload hours.

C2. Current space, equipment, and library materials are adequate to accommodate this course.

Lab supplies and travel funds are not applicable.

C3. None of the resources are provided by a grant.

C4. The intention is to offer at least one section of this course every semester.

C5. No more than two sections will be offered in any given semester.

C6. We hope to restrict enrollment to 30 students per section since, although not designated writing-intensive, evaluation will be based solely on written work.

C7. No professional agency in political science has recommended enrollment limits in this kind of course.

C8. This is not a distance education course

D. Miscellaneous: No additional information is necessary.

EXAMPLES OF SIMILAR COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

From their catalog descriptions:

American University

GOVT-309

Contemporary Political Thought (3)

This course examines important works in political theory from the late nineteenth/early twentieth century to the present, with a view to the major upheavals that distinguish this era. Themes addressed include Marxism, fascism/totalitarianism, liberalism, conservatism, communitarianism, libertarianism, postmodernism, and others. Meets with GOVT-609. Usually offered every spring. Prerequisite: GOVT-105 or permission of instructor.

Duquesne University

POSC 420 - Contemporary Political Thought - 3 credits. A study of the central controversies in political thought during the 20th century.

Bowling Green State University

POLS 3010 - Modern Political Ideologies

Units 3

Description

Spring. Nature of political power, freedom, authority and terrorism as seen in ideologies of democracy, capitalism, liberalism, conservatism, communism, anarchism, socialism, and fascism. Applicable to the BG Perspective (general education) social sciences and international perspective requirements.