

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science

Political Science 012-001-05 MWF: 10:10-11:00 a.m Fall 1997 Office: DGH # 134 M. Hatem Office Hrs: MWF: 11:00- 12:00 p.m & 1:00-2:00 p.m on Monday

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INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

Ideology will be the focus of our study this term. It refers to a distinct set of political ideals and operational principles that distinguish one type of political system from another and explain why it is an "ideal political community". As such, ideology allows one to think about different types of political systems and the positions they give to different classes, racial and gendered groups. We will begin the course with a discussion of a definition of ideology, its types and functions. Next, we will examine some of the dominant ideologies of our time e.g liberalism and socialism. Finally, we will turn to a discussion of feminist critique of both as patriarchal systems. As part of the discussion of each of the above, we will review the arguments presented by its proponents and its critics. Both of the oral and the written assignments will focus on the internal debates within each of these ideologies.

After the discussion of the distinguishing features of each ideology, students will be given a scenario to debate orally in class and to discuss in a written paper.

(1) In the preparation for the oral debate, each student will be assigned to one of the groups represented. As a member of that group, you will be expected to be familiar with its position and its different arguments and how to defend it against its critics.

(2) On a date to be specified by the instructor, the whole class (representing different groups/perspectives) will engage in an oral debate of the ideology under discussion. For your individual participation in that debate, you will be graded on a scale from 1-5.

(3) Following each debate, every student will write a paper (10-11 pages) incorporating the readings and the oral discussion in a useful synthesis of the issues.

(4) Each paper assignment will be typed and will include both endnotes and a bibliography.

(5) Each paper must be submitted on the specified dates.

****** Late papers will not be accepted.**

Grading:

Grades will reflect individual performance in the oral debates, the written paper assignments and attendance. Each of your 3 written paper assignments will account for 25% of your final grade. Participation in each of the 3 oral debate will count for 5% bringing the total of the orals to 15% . The remaining 10% will be given to class attendance i.e those who show up to class on time and are there for the full class session. Those who are tardy or who leave early without an excuse communicated to the instructor before hand will not get credit for attendance.

READINGS:

The following textbook has been ordered through Howard University bookstore. Roy Macridis, Contemporary Political Ideologies (Boston: Scott, Foreman & Company, 1996).

Each section of the syllabus will have 2-3 basic readings from the textbook as well from other books. The purpose of these additional readings will be to expose the students to different perspectives on each ideology. Readings outside of the textbook will be put on reserve at the library so that all students will have access to them.

GOOD LUCK AND WELCOME TO THE COURSE

COURSE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND THE CONCEPT OF IDEOLOGY

(Aug. 25)

I. DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF IDEOLOGY: (Aug. 27, 29)

Roy Macridis, Contemporary Political Ideologies, ch 1: 1-18.

II. Dominant Ideologies:

1. Liberalism (Sept. 3, 5, 8)

Roy Macridis, Contemporary Political Ideologies

Ch 2: pp. 18-48

A. Its Class Critics: (Sept. 10, 12, 15)

-Peter Bachrach & Morton Baratz, "Two Faces of Power" American Political Science Review 56 (Dec 1962), 263-273.

-William Domhoff, The Higher Circles, Ch. 4:

pp. 71-99.

B. Its Racial Critics: (Sept. 17, 19)

- Barbara Fields, "Race, Slavery and Ideology in America", New Left Review 181 (1991), pp. 95-118.

C. Feminist Critics: (Sept. 22, 24)

-Carole Pateman, The Sexual Contract, Ch 1: 1-18

*** First oral debate (Oct. 3).**

***First paper written assignment due on (Oct. 6).**

2. Socialism (Oct. 8, 10, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24)

-Bertell Ollman, "Marx's Vision of Communism" in Social and Sexual Revolution: 48-92.

- Roy Macridis, Contemporary Political Ideologies,

chs. 6-7: 110-134.

*** Second Oral Debate on Oct. 31.**

*** Written assignment is due on Nov. 3.**

3. Feminism (Nov. 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17)

Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism", in Women and Revolution, Lydia Sargeant, ed.

Christine di Stephano, "Karl Marx: The Poverty of Production" Configurations of Masculinity.

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex," in Towards an Anthropology of Women.

*** Third oral debate is on Nov. 24.**

*** Final written assignment is due on Dec. 3.**

