

## Ideals and Belief Sets:

*Democracy: an Ideal*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** How do different Ideologies put democracy into practice?
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Why is the U.S. not a democracy by design? What are the values promoted by democracy? What are the different forms of democracy?
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Define democracy. Understand the difference between a democracy and a republic.

*Nationalism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Analyze domestic and world political examples.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Explain why nationalism continues to be a vexing political and ideological problem.
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Define nationalism. Understand the difference between a nation and a state.

*Anarchism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Understand the difficulties in the practical application of anarchism.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** What do different groups of anarchists believe? Why do some people argue that anarchism *isn't* an ideology?
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** What is anarchism? Where did the idea come from?

## Ideologies:

*Liberalism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Apply different liberal frameworks to contemporary political problems (articulate why welfare liberals or libertarians would support particular positions or ideas).
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Distinguish between classical liberalism, utilitarianism, welfare liberalism and libertarianism. Articulate the economic, social and political historical changes that were important to the development of liberalism (the Enlightenment, the fall of feudalism and rise of merchant capitalism, the Plague, the Protestant Reformation, etc.).
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Define and correctly use the term “liberal”. This includes explaining the components that make it an ideology (its view of human nature, its ideal of freedom, its view of democracy, etc.). Understand that liberalism is one perspective among competing perspectives. The formation of liberalism is the foundation of the modern ideological framework.

*Conservatism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Apply the different strands of conservatism to contemporary policy issues and be able to see differences between liberals and conservatives.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Define and distinguish between the four kinds of contemporary conservatives: individualists, classical, neo-conservatives, and religious right; distinguish Individualist Conservatives from Libertarians.
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Define the basic principles of conservative thought (views of human nature, freedom, etc.); understand the evolution of Conservatism (as it arises from Burke in response to liberalism and the French and American Revolutions through the 21<sup>st</sup> century); explain conservative view of democracy.

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*Socialism & Communism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Explain the socialist/communist critique of both liberalism and conservatism; apply contemporary socialism to current political problems.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Marxist theory vs. Marxist the practice (Marxism, Leninism, Stalinism, Maoism, Evolutionary Socialism, Anarcho-communism, etc.).
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Define communism. Define socialism and explain the basic connection to communism (including views of human nature, freedom and democracy). Understand historical roots of communism and socialism and the basic contours of Marx’s theory (specifically the materialist conception of history and the “revolutionary sequence” from capitalism to communism).

*Fascism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Understand contemporary forms of fascism and explain why it is a different kind of ideology from all others studied. Apply fascist framework to contemporary political problems.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Distinguish Nazism from other forms of fascism; define and explain the significance of totalitarianism to fascism.
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Explain the historical roots of fascism; distinguish Fascism (reactionaries) from Conservatism; explain the basic components of fascism (view of human nature, freedom, democracy, etc.).

*Liberation*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Explain the connection between identity politics, nationalism and democracy; assess whether these are separate ideologies or simply new versions of liberalism or socialism; apply to specific political problems.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Distinguish and explain the liberal and radical strands of each perspective.
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Explain what led to the rise of liberation ideologies, including Black liberation, Women’s liberation (feminism), Gay liberation, Animal and Indigenous People’s liberation; what’s the view of freedom and human nature proposed by each strand?

*Green Ideology*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** Explain how environmentalism both overlaps with and is distinct from liberalism, conservatism, and the other ideologies studied; apply environmentalism to specific policy problems.
- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** Distinguish between Wise Management (anthropocentric view) and Deep Ecologist (biocentric view).
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** Understand the roots of environmentalism and its foundation: interconnectedness, survival and stewardship. Other key terms: time-horizon problem, land ethic.

*Radical Islamism*

- a. **Ultimate Learning Objective:** How is Radical Islamism similar to and different from conservatism and fascism? How can it be applied to public policy issues?

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- b. **Mediating Learning Objective:** How is *radical Islamism* different from *moderate Islam*? Why is nationalism so important to Islamism? What is the role of democracy in Islam and the Middle East?
- c. **Foundational Learning Objective:** What are the historical roots of radical Islam (why does it arise when and how it does)? What's the view of human nature, freedom, and democracy offered by Radical Islam?

Foundational Course Goals:

1. Define an ideology (generally).
2. Have the ability to define and distinguish between ideological frameworks.
3. Realization that the ideologies are dynamic, not static.
4. Understand the difference (and relationship) between an ideology and a political party.

Mediating Course Goals:

1. Explain the three Spheres of Politics (that ideologies organize differently): Government, Economy and Society.
2. Understanding of the historical conditions that gave rise to these system of thought
3. Determine which ideologies have been successful, which have failed, and why.
4. Apply ideologies to current political issues.
5. Understand why and how so many different ideologies claim to promote democracy.
6. Explain why freedom and democracy are essentially contested concepts.
7. Create and defend an argument from two sides using evidence.

Ultimate Course Goal:

Identify, assess and evaluate policies, speeches, and written material from a variety of ideological perspectives

Learning Objective Classifications:

**Ultimate:** The most challenging skills and cognitively complex tasks students are to master. They demand high levels of thinking (e.g., analysis and evaluation) and problem solving and require students to not only use but to integrate several abilities they have acquired during the course.

**Mediating:** Skills and tasks your students will have to demonstrate and perform before they can achieve your ultimate objectives, representing a component or lower level of your ultimate objectives.

**Foundational:** Relatively low-order cognitive operations, such as being able to recognize or paraphrase technical definitions, recall basic facts, define concepts, and summarize theoretical frameworks.

**Definitions Provided by:**

Nilson, Linda B. *The Graphic Syllabus and the Outcomes Map: Communicating Your Course*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2007.

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