

# POLS 2300 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

## Spring, 2021

### Course Description

A survey course covering ancient and modern political theory.

### Fees

Online Course Fee: \$15 per credit course fee is applied to all online courses to sustain current digital technologies and support services required for engaging and effective online learning.

### Course Objectives

This course is designed to encourage students to learn and think deeply about:

1. The historical origins of political theory and political ideologies.
2. The core themes of major political ideologies, including the values, doctrines and theories that define the major characteristics of these political ideologies.
3. Sub-traditions that characterize each political ideology, the distinctive features of each sub-tradition, the internal coherence, or lack of coherence, of the ideology as a whole, and areas of disagreement between supporters of the same ideology.
4. Contemporary developments within the ideological tradition in question which reflect how, and to what extent, it has been reshaped in the light of globalizing tendencies.
5. Major thinkers in each tradition.
6. Key concepts and major events in the history of the ideology.
7. Rival perspectives on important political themes and points of tension within each ideology.
8. How ideologies are configured internally.

### Instructor

Dr. Michael Petersen  
(801) 230-7642

[michael.petersen@usu.edu](mailto:michael.petersen@usu.edu)

Office Hours: M-Th:10:00-11:00 AM

You may contact Dr. Petersen immediately in any of the following three ways:

1. Canvas has a built-in e-mail tool. If you wish to send an e-mail message to me, I am immediately notified, and will reply as soon as I see a message from you. This is also an effective way to communicate one-to-one with any other class member.
2. My USU e-mail address is michael.petersen@usu.edu. I am continually notified if I have new e-mail, and will reply to your messages as soon as I see them.
3. You may call me or text me on my cell phone whenever you need to reach me, at 801 230-7642. If I don't answer, text me, or leave a message on my voicemail and I will respond as soon as I hear your message or see your text

## Course Resources

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- <http://canvas.usu.edu> (Links to an external site.)
  - Your username is your A#, and your password is your global password (the same one you use for Banner or Aggiemail).
- For [Canvas](#) (Links to an external site.), [Passwords](#) (Links to an external site.), or any other computer-related technical support contact the [IT Service Desk](#) (Links to an external site.).
  - **435 797-4357 (797-HELP)**
  - **877 878-8325**
  - <http://it.usu.edu> (Links to an external site.)
  - [servicedesk@usu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@usu.edu)

### Required Textbook

#### **Auto Access eBook: Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal eBook, 11e by Ball**

This course requires all-inclusive digital materials that are provided to you at a lower price than traditional printed materials. These materials are paid for through an “Auto Access Digital Materials” charge placed on your student account when you registered for the course. **To access the materials, visit the Canvas course site.** For more details, including dates, deadlines, and opt-out info, visit your student Auto Access Portal: <https://portal.verba.io/usu/login>.

# Course Requirements

To successfully pass this course, you must complete the following:

1. 2 Unit Examinations, each worth 50 points. Reading assignments for units 1-2 will be covered in Exam 1, and assignments for units 3-4 will be included in Exam 2. You may take these examinations online from any computer during the dates specified. The Unit exams will consist of short answer questions, that will be based on information from the textbook, assigned articles, and videos. Each question answered will be worth 2 points. You will prepare one essay question, for which you will be given three quotes from the readings you completed. You will choose one to write a short essay explaining the message, context, and implications of the quote.
2. Final Examination, worth 100 points. The final examination will emphasize reading assignments from units 5 and 6, but will also review textbook and readings in units 1 through 4. You may take the final examination online from any computer, but only during final exam week. It will follow the same format as the unit exams, with a combination of short answer and essay questions. However, there will also be a general essay question which will require you to reflect upon and provide a summary of significant portions of the material we have studied in class.
3. Unit Analyses, worth 25 points each, worth a total of 150 points. A major responsibility you have as a student in this course is to complete the assigned readings and develop a good understanding of the ideas and concepts presented within them. The unit analyses require you to demonstrate your understanding of the readings in the textbook and assigned readings.
4. Online Discussion Participation, worth 10 points weekly, for a total of 150 points. You will be expected to originate at least one posting and respond to at least one comment each week. Discussions are open from Monday morning through Sunday night. You will be unable to post comments and earn points once that discussion closes.
5. 2 term papers will each be worth 50 points. These assignments will require you to compare the ideas of two of the political philosophers we study in the first and later units of the class regarding a key issue, and to submit an extended essay (typically 3 to 4 pages in length) submitted using the Canvas assignment tool. The Unit 2 and Unit 4 instructions provide specific details about the term papers.

## Evaluation Methods and Criteria

Points will be assigned to examinations, observations and analyses, term papers, and online discussion participation, as follows:

<b>Required Activity</b>	<b>Points for each</b>	<b>Total points</b>
Unit Examinations (2)	50	100
Final Examination	100	100
Unit Analyses	25	150
Discussions	10	150
Term Papers (2)	50	100
Total Points		600

## Grade Scheme

Based on the percentage of total points you receive for all class assignments, your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Percent of Possible Points	Final Grade
93 - 100	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B+
83 - 86	B
80 - 82	B-
76 - 79	C+

70 - 75	C
66 - 69	C-
60 - 65	D+
55 - 59	D
50 - 54	D-
Less than 50	Fail

## Course Schedule/Outline

This class is to be completed during Spring Term, 2021. It is divided into 6 units, each of which will be completed approximately every two weeks. You will complete reading assignments in the required textbook and readings; and submit analyses for each unit. You must complete each unit analysis, participate in weekly online discussions, complete two term papers, and take three examinations to effectively participate in the class and to earn all available points. It is possible that adjustments may be made in the schedule, so be sure to check the schedule linked from the Canvas home page before you begin working on a particular section.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
1. Origins of Political Theory and Ideologies	Ball, chapter 1, other assigned readings listed in Unit 1 instructions	January 19-February 8
The Democratic Ideal and Liberalism	Ball, Chapters 2-3; other assigned readings listed in Unit 2 instructions	February 9-22
President's Day		February 15

Exam 1 Start First Term Paper	Units 1-2	February 23-28
3. Conservatism	Ball, chapter 4, other assigned readings listed in Unit 3 instructions	February 23-March 10
Term Paper 1 Due		March 20
4. Socialism and Communism	Ball, chapters 5-6; other assigned readings listed in Unit 4 instructions	March 11-29
Exam 2	Units 3-4	March 30-April 5
5. Fascism and Nationalism	Ball, chapter 7; other assigned readings listed in Unit 5 instructions	March 30-April 14
6. Contemporary Ideologies	Ball, chapters 8-9; other assigned readings listed in Unit 6 instructions	April 15-27
Second Term Paper due		April 27
Final Exam	Emphasizes Units 5-6, with coverage of all Units	April 29-May 5

### Attendance, Excused Absences and Non-Attendance Policy

This is an online class, so class attendance does not occur. Instead, students are expected to maintain a schedule by which they complete course assignments according to the course schedule. I do recognize that extenuating circumstances may occur. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from completing course assignments for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies that I deem appropriate. If students do face such exigencies, they must contact me to discuss and resolve the circumstances.

Students may be dropped from POLS 2300 for nonattendance. Failure to complete assignments scheduled during the first two weeks of the term constitutes non-attendance, and if students have not discussed extenuating circumstances with me, I may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. ***(This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.)***

## Assumption of Risk

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: <http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/>

## Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at [libguides.usu.edu/rc](http://libguides.usu.edu/rc).

## Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read [Student Code Article V Section V-3](#) for more information.

## University Policies & Procedures

### COVID-19 Classroom Protocols

In order to continue to provide a high standard of instruction at USU, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, students are asked to follow certain classroom protocols. These protocols are in place not only for your safety but also the safety of the rest of the campus community. You will be asked to clean your desk area at the start of each class, sit in designated seats, wear face coverings, and follow dismissal instructions. There may be individual medical circumstances that prevent some students from using face coverings. These circumstances will be rare, but if they do exist, we ask that everyone be respectful. It is imperative that we each do our part so that on-campus instruction can continue.

## **Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities**

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. [Faculty Code Policy #403](#) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

## **Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

*"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."*

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"

- Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
  - **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: [ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity](#)

### **Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and [USU Policy 339](#) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's [Office of Equity](#) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment ([USU Policy 305](#)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

### **Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family,

(3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## **Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, [drc@usu.edu](mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

## **Diversity Statement**

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.usu.edu>, (435) 797-1712, [studentservices@usu.edu](mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: <https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services>, (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu>, (435) 797-1728, [access@usu.edu](mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture>, (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa>, (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: <https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity>, (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:  
The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State  
University: <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode>

## **Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [Article VII](#).

**Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:**

- [Student Conduct](#)

- [Student Code](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy](#)

## **Emergency Procedures**

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

## **Mental Health**

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#).

Students are also encouraged to download the [“SafeUT App”](#) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.