# PSC 105-03 Exploring Political Issues

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All of your assigned readings for this class are posted on canvas (click on the Modules link or the Learning Area). Be careful. Many times students read on the internet like it is facebook. These are serious readings that you will be tested on. Treat them as a textbook. Also, because this is a class in contemporary politics, it is possible that readings could change during the semester. Any additions or deletions will be announced in class.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Political Science 105 is an examination of some of the major issues throughout the history of politics. The role of the individual, the state and the international order will be examined. We will be using many of these age-old concerns to examine some of today's controversial topics.

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

Understand the major ideologies ---liberalism, conservatism, fascism, socialism/communism and radical Islamism and their historical context. Students should also be able to see where the ideologies are alike and different.

Be able to examine a new issue from the perspective of the major ideologies.

Students should be able to articulate their own personal ideology and view of the role of government and politics.

This course fulfills the requirements for a GPR (Philosophical, Ethical and Religious Perspective) marker in UNCG's General Education requirements. The GPR learning outcomes are:

- Describe and analyze at least two significant philosophical, religious, and/or ethical theories or traditions
- Compare and contrast the assumptions, arguments, beliefs, and/or practices of two or more theories or traditions
- Apply the general description of at least two theories and/or traditions to specific instances

**GRADES:** The grades will be assigned as follows:

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| Class participation | 5% |
| Newspaper assignments | 15% |
| Short quizzes on class readings | 15% |
| two tests each 20% | 40% |
| final | 25% |

In the Modules section of canvas, you will find a Plagiarism and Citations module that must be completed by September 1. This will count towards your participation grade. Any and all violations of the UNCG policy on plagiarism will be punished. Assume that everything you write is run through a plagiarism checker.

Each Friday by 5 PM, unless otherwise noted, you will post a short summary on canvas of an article from that week's *New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal or* vox.com that covers the assigned topic of the week. Your post should include a short summary of the article as well as its relevance to the week's topic. These topics will be announced the first of every week. Each assignment will be worth 10 points. Failure to provide a proper citation will result in a 5 point penalty. Citations must be submitted with the assignment and will not be accepted later. If you need assistance, consult the library or check here: http://uncg.libguides.com/citation No assignments will be accepted over a week late. Grammar will be checked!

Readings tagged with an * have a short quiz that is to be completed BEFORE class discussion. These quizzes are available on canvas. They will only be open until class time. The assigned dates of each reading will be announced in class. Failure to complete the quiz before class time will result in a zero. No make-ups permitted.

Readings marked LA are from our online version of this class. You will find them in the Learning Area in canvas. Notice carefully which sections are required reading. Not all of the Learning Area is required.

**Any work handed in late will be penalized**. Class participation will be graded on participation in class and attendance. Any more than 3 unexcused absences will lower your participation grade by one point per absence. (Out of a total of 10 possible points.) Students are responsible for checking their grades on canvas. If a grade is missing or incorrect, it is your responsibility to contact me. There will be no make-ups, no late assignments and no whining after Reading Day, Tuesday Dec. 6. Strict adherence to the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy is expected.

Submission of the first assignment is acknowledgement that you have read, understood and abided by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy. It is available here: http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/

At any time that I feel your use of electronic devices ( phones, laptops, tablets) has become a distraction to you or others in the class, you will receive ONE WARNING. After the second infraction, you will receive a ZERO for the class participation grade. Any other infractions will drop your final grade one letter grade.

**READINGS**

***1. What is Politics? Do We Need Government?***
Anarchism: Skim anarchist FAQ, Unabomber Manifesto, Update on Milgram experiment)
LA: Unit 2 (newspaper, magazine, TV)

***2. What Kind of Government Should We Have? Democracy, Liberalism and Conservatism***
Social Contract Writers ( Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau)
*the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers. No. 10 and 51
* Point/CounterPoint: Is Spreading Democracy our Duty?,
Conservatism ( Burke, Brooks, Is the Right Conservative?)
LA: Unit 1 (newspaper, magazine), Unit 4 ( magazine, comic, TV, newspaper)

**SEPT. 27 -- TEST 1**

***3. The Challenge of Fascism, Socialism/Communism and Political Islam***
Hitler's Mein Kampf selection
Selection from the Communist Manifesto, China's Great Famine
Socialism Explained, VOX
LA, Unit 5 ( comic, TV, newspaper, magazine)
LA, Unit 6 ( newspaper, magazine, radio)
LA, Unit 10 ( TV, newspaper, magazine)
*ISIS as Revolutionary State

***4. How Does the Individual Relate to Society and the State?***
John Stuart Mill, On Liberty
*Point/CounterPoint, Socioeconomic Inequality
*Point/CounterPoint, Universal Health Care
*Point/CounterPoint, Should the US Use Torture Against Terrorists?
*DeMuth, the Case for Big Government and DeMint, Saving Freedom ( e-reserves)

**NOV. 1 –TEST 2**

***5. The Nation, the State and the Nation-State***
*Point/CounterPoint: Is Manufacturing Dead in the US?
*Point/CounterPoint Should Illegal Immigrants be Given Amnesty?
LA, Unit 3 (TV, newspaper, magazine)

***6. Where is the Nation-State in the New World Order? Where is the US?***
*Point/CounterPoint: Should the US Withdraw from Afghanistan?,
*Point/CounterPoint: Is China a Threat?,
*Point/CounterPoint: Must the US Exercise World Leadership?,

*Point/CounterPoint: : Is Iran's Nuclear Program a Threat?
*the Future  (Barber, Fukuyama, Huntington),

**FINAL EXAM- Thursday Dec. 8, NOON**