

## CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (Syllabus of Dr. George Kaloudis)

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**Summary:** A comprehensive study of the political and theoretical foundations of major political ideologies: nationalism, liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, fascism, Islamic political ideologies, liberation theology, and their variants.

**Required text:** *Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis* by Lyman Tower Sargent.

Students also read additional material from primary sources, including

- Alexis de Tocqueville, "Democracy and Equality"
- Thomas Hobbes, "The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation"
- Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- V.I. Lenin, "Revisionism, Imperialism and Revolution"
- John Locke, "Toleration and Government"
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto"
- Benito Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism"
- John Stuart Mill, "Democratic Participation and Political Education"

**In class:** Dr. Kaloudis says that he begins most classes by discussing relevant current events. "The first few minutes are devoted to that to engage students," he says. He also uses that time to help clarify students' thinking. "Often, students watch TV or listen to the radio. Since they're not listening to objective people, they don't think about the use of terminology—for example, critics of Obama have referred to him as a socialist or a Nazi," Kaloudis says. He wants students to consider the true meaning of that terminology and whether it is being applied accurately.

Overall, Kaloudis hopes that after discussions, lectures, and a research paper, students will have a clear understanding of important ideologies. ■