





Political Science (POLI) 307

Political Ideologies (Revision 5)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#) 

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: None

Challenge: POLI 307 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

Political Science 307 surveys the origins and development of modern political ideologies in their historical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts beginning with the origins of liberalism followed by responses to it that include capitalism, conservatism, socialism, Marxism, and nationalism. Comparisons and interrelationships of the major tenets of these political belief systems, as they have evolved in time and place, are considered for the purpose of analyzing the premises and internal logic of past and contemporary ideologies. Discussion of contemporary ideological developments, such as the search for community, post-materialism, postmodernism, and the new social movements—feminism and environmentalism—extends to both Western and non-Western society over the past 300 to 400 years.

As a major component, this course also includes the political ideologies from the “Global South,” an area in which considerable ideological contestation in recent decades elaborates and often challenges received Western beliefs. In particular, considerable attention is paid to the manner in which the people of this region formulate their own political belief systems and to their ways of adapting, critiquing, or transforming standard Western ideologies to their own different contexts.

Students are encouraged to consider connections and interdependencies among the various ideologies presented and to familiarize themselves with the ways in which ideologies develop and change over time.

Outline

Part 1—Ideas to Ideologies

- Chapter 1: Analyzing and Understanding Ideologies
- Chapter 2: The Emergence of “Modern” Ideologies

Part 2—Liberalism in the Long Nineteenth Century

- Chapter 3: Liberalism, Capitalism, Democracy
- Chapter 4: Anti-Liberal Ideologies
- Chapter 5: Anti-Capitalist Ideologies
- Chapter 6: Nationalism: A Component of All Modern Ideologies

Part 3—The Age of Mass Ideologies: The “Short” Twentieth Century

- Chapter 7: Contemporary Liberal Democracy

- Chapter 8: Two Variants of Socialism
- Chapter 9: Orthodox Marxism-Leninism
- Chapter 10: Fascism and National Socialism
- Chapter 11: Indigenous Voices in the Global South

Part 4—Ideological Currents in Our Time

- Chapter 12: The Search for Community
- Chapter 13: The Rise of an Eclectic Left

Learning outcomes


After completing Political Science 307: Political Ideologies, students should be able to achieve the following course learning outcomes:

- 1.** Explain several important difficulties in the identification and discussion of ideologies and their functions that emerge through the study and evaluation of these ideologies.
- 2.** Describe the origins and development of modern political ideologies in their historical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts.
- 3.** Compare and interrelate major tenets of our current political belief systems as they have evolved in time and place.
- 4.** Analyze the premises and internal logic of past and contemporary ideologies.
- 5.** Discuss contemporary ideological developments in both Western and non-Western society.
- 6.** Demonstrate the breadth, depth, and the integration and synthesis of learning about ideologists and their writings and interpretations through participation in oral and written communications about the ideologies' merits and drawbacks.


Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for POLI 307, students must obtain a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#). The chart below summarizes the course activities and the credit weight associated with each requirement.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Participation Posts	10%
Assignment 2: Research Preparation	30%
Assignment 3: Research Essay	30%
Assignment 4: Final Project	30%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a **Course Administration and Technology Fee** , but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

All materials for the course are available online. These materials include a Student Manual, Course Information, a Course Text, and Required Readings.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit**  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the POLI 307 challenge registration, students must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) on the activities.

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View [previous revision](#) [↗](#)
