

Peter Brown
(650) 330-2001 ext. 2238

Office: A239
Free Periods: C, E, F

Course Outline
Ideology and Power

Purpose and Content:

Why do people so often disagree about politics? Why do we often have trouble understanding those who disagree with us? Our main purpose in this course is to better understand the views of others and ourselves by exploring the major ideological frameworks that often underlie analyses of current affairs. We will do this, first, by studying the history and development of ideologies themselves, examining how they explain social reality, ideals and obstacles to those ideals, as well as their distinctive assumptions about democracy, freedom, and human nature. Second, we will study three dynamic phenomena of the modern world: globalization, nationalism, and fundamentalism, relating them to the ideological perspectives we've considered. Third, we will explore explicit or latent ideological perspectives in today's major newspapers, documentaries, and other mass media. Finally, we will develop and share our own positions on major issues we study, including the "War on Terror," and research and share topics of interest with the class.

Units:

The course divides into ten units. The first quarter emphasizes the intellectual history and development of ideologies since the Enlightenment. Longer units on globalization, nationalism, and fundamentalism follow these. The final unit will focus on the "War on Terror": Are we witnessing a "clash of civilizations"?

1st Quarter¹	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Intro/Definitions	Globalization	Nationalism (completed)	War on Terror (revisited)
Liberalism/ Conservatism	Nationalism	Fundamentalism	
Socialism/Fascism			
Liberation / Green			
Islam / Radical Islam			

¹ Note that times and duration of units are approximate and subject to change.

Readings:

Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal, by Ball and Dagger

Other Readings TBA

Supplies:

3-ring binder with six binder dividers for storing class notes, reading notes, and handouts. Bring this binder, with a supply of writing paper (or spiral notebook), to every class.

Class Expectations:

You are expected to come to class on time and to participate openly, actively, and respectfully in class discussions and activities. It is very important to be able to articulate your own views while listening to and respecting the views of those with whom you disagree. The extent to which you do this will be one important variable in your participation grade. You are expected to prepare for class, usually by reading and annotating your text. As seniors, you should not expect ideas in the text or handouts to be routinely covered again in class.

Make-up exams and extensions are negotiable as long as you take the responsibility to come see or email me (pbrown@menloschool.org) **before** the day that work is due. The further in advance you talk to me the more reasonable I will be.

If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out about and making up missed work. Papers are to be typed, using double-spacing and a 12-point typeface.

Plagiarism, or the uncited use of another person's work or ideas so that they are assumed to be your own, is a serious violation of Menlo School and class norms.

Grades:

Your grade will be based on attendance and class participation, quizzes, tests, papers, research projects and exams. These will be weighted roughly as follows:

Participation	15%
Preparation	15%
Tests, Papers, and Projects*	<u>70%</u>
	100%

Website: sun.menloschool.org/~pbrown
