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# Comparative Economic and Political Ideas Syllabus

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**Syllabus for**
**Comparative Economic and Political Ideas**
**GOVT 430 – Spring 2003**
**Dr. Steven Alan Samson**
**Liberty University**
**School of Business and Government**

**I.** **Course Description** A comparison of capitalism, socialism and communism, emphasizing the ideas and ideologies that are struggling today across the world. Special attention will be given this term to a comparison of the western and Islamic civilizations along with a focus on the American conservative movement.

**II.** **Rationale** This course directly supports Aims 1-10 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

**III.** **Prerequisite** GOVT 200 or GOVT 220, preferably both

**IV.** **Materials List**

**Handouts:**
Nelson, Jeffrey O. Ten Books That Shaped America (if it is available)
Schall, James V. A Student's Guide to Liberal Learning [Schall]

**Purchase:**
Nash. George H. The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America Since 1945 [N]
Samson, Steven. Outlines and Readings [S]
Schumaker, Paul, et al. Great Ideas/Grand Schemes [G]
Scruton, Roger. The West and the Rest [W]

**Reserve Desk**:
Chamberlain, John. A Life with the Printed Word (a good sourcebook)
East, John P. The American Conservative Movement: The Philosophical Founders
Panichas, George A., ed. Modern Age: The First Twenty-Five Years [P]
Schumaker, Paul, *et al.* Ideological Voices [V]

**Subscribe:**
Intercollegiate Review (see isi.org below)

**Websites:**
Chambers, Whittaker. "Letter to My Children"
Murphey, Dwight D.
Periodicals
amconmag.com (Pat Buchanan: Old Right)
capo.org (Center for the Advancement of Paleo Orthodoxy)
chalcedon.edu (Christian Reconstruction: links to many other sites)
chroniclesmagazine.org (Rockford Institute: Old Right traditionalist cultural conservative)
commentarymagazine.com (Jewish neo-conservative)
conservativechronicle.com (conservative columnists)
firstthings.com (Richard John Neuhaus: Catholic conservative)
human-events.com (conservative political news weekly)
humaneventsonline.com
isi.org/publications/journals.asp (Intercollegiate Studies Institute: traditionalist conservative publisher of Modern Age, Intercollegiate Review, *et al.*)
lewrockwell.com (right-wing libertarian)
nationalreview.com (William F. Buckley, Jr.: conservative)

nybooks (New York Review of Books: politically and culturally liberal)
thenation.com (left-wing)
the new american.com (John Birch Society: right-wing)
tnr.com (The New Republic: liberal)
townhall.com (comprehensive site for conservative policy and politics)
weeklystandard.com (neo-conservative)
worldnetdaily.com (Joseph Farah, former editor of now defunct Sacramento Union)

## V. Course Objectives

1. The student will be exposed to a variety of concepts and social science approaches to the study of economic and political ideas.
2. The student will learn how to identify, analyze and evaluate the presupposition bases of modern economic and political ideas and ideologies.
3. The student will thereby become better equipped to understand, participate in, and evaluate domestic and international political processes.

## VI. Graded Requirements and Options

1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments **prior** to class and should keep a loose leaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Textbook chapters, collateral readings, and current events will be the subject of class commentary and discussions.
3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of seven tests that are to be taken at the scheduled time. Students who miss a test because of some university sponsored activity must bring a written request before the date of the test if they wish to arrange to take a make-up test. Unless otherwise specified, the make-up test (available **only** to those with signed medical or academic excuses) may be taken at 7:30 AM on the day of the next class session. Sleeping in and lack of preparation are not valid excuses. Each student will be graded on **no fewer** than six test scores. Make-up work **may not** be delayed more than a week.
4. Each student will participate in discussions of assigned readings and brief presentations on collateral readings
5. Each student will be responsible for writing a bibliographic essay on a modern economic or political thinker and presenting to the class an overview of one of his or her key works. Claims may be staked out on a first come, first served basis. A minimum of fifteen entries (at least six of them books) should be included in the annotated bibliography. It should also include both primary and secondary sources. Identify by call number which of these works are available in the library and which are available on internet. A typed, 6-8 page abstract or summary should be supplied at the time of the presentation. The first draft should be completed and turned in on Monday, April 7. Completion of these requirements permits you to drop the lowest test score at the end of the term so long as six test scores are retained.

**Suggested Thinkers and Books (More Below in Bibliography)**
Buckley, William F., Jr. God and Man at Yale (1951)
Chambers, Whittaker. Witness (1952)
Hayek, Friedrich, The Road to Serfdom (1944) or The Constitution of Liberty
Kirk, Russell. The Sword of Imagination (1995) or The Conservative Mind (1953)
Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik von. Leftism (1974)
Lewis, C. S. The Abolition of Man (1947) and That Hideous Strength (1946)
Mahoney, Daniel J. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (2001)
Nisbet, Robert. The Quest for Community (1952)

Roepke, Wilhelm. A Humane Economy (1960)
Rosenstock-Huessy, Eugen. The Christian Future (1946) or Out of Revolution (1938)
Voegelin, Eric. The New Science of Politics (1952)
Weaver, Richard. Ideas Have Consequences (1948).

6. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.

**VII. Attendance** Students are supposed to arrive **on time** for every class meeting. Students who are absent due to illness or emergency should notify the professor prior to class or soon afterward. Excused absences include participation in university-sponsored events, serious illness (if accompanied by a physician's note), or a family emergency. Persistent absences or tardiness will have a detrimental effect on grades.

**VIII. Dress Code** Observe the Liberty Way. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will **not** be admitted to class. Caps will **not** be worn in class. Other than drinks, there will be **no** eating in the classroom.

**IX. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours**

School of Business and Government, DH 130
Phone: 582-2640
E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu
Hours: MWF 1:20-2:10; TR 8-9:15; R 9:25-10:40, 1:40-2:55; and by appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **January** | | |
| Wed. | 15 | Introduction |
| Fri. | 17 | Schall |
| Mon. | 20 | Schall; G. 1; **collateral**: P. 60 |
| Wed. | 22 | G. 1; P. 44 (on reserve) (read by Mon. 27) |
| Fri. | 24 | G. 1; S. 1-2 |
| Mon. | 27 | S. 2-4; G. 2; Murphey on “Classical Liberalism” |
| Wed. | 29 | G. 2; **collateral**: V. 2 {Smith, Mill) |
| Fri. | 31 | G. 3; Murphey on “The Varieties of Conservatism” |
| **February** | | |
| Mon. | 3 | G. 3; S. 5-8; **collateral**: V. 3 (Burke Speech, Kirk) |
| Wed. | 5 | G. 4; Murphey on “Romanticism”; FIRST TEST: G. 1-3; P. 44; S. 1-8; Murphey |
| Fri. | 7 | G. 4; S. 9-12; **collateral**: P. 51, V. 4 (Goldman, Bakunin) |
| Mon. | 10 | S. 13; G. 5; **collateral**: V. 5 (Marx 1844, Engels) |
| Wed. | 12 | G. 5-6; Murphey on “Socialism” |
| Fri. | 14 | G. 6; Chambers, “Letter to My Children” **collateral**: P. 72; V. 6 (Lenin, Mao) |
| Mon. | 17 | G. 7; Murphey on “National Socialism”; **collateral**: V. 7 (Hitler, Mussolini) |
| Wed. | 19 | G. 7; S. 16-17; SECOND TEST: G. 4-6; S. 9-12; Murphey |
| Fri. | 21 | G. 8 (pp. 237-45, 257-66, 275-82); Murphey on “Modern Liberalism” |
| Mon. | 24 | G. 9 (pp. 284-98, 302-312, 317-19); **collateral**: P. 7; V. 8-9 (King, Harrington) |
| Wed. | 26 | S. 18-21; G. 10 |
| Fri. | 28 | G. 10; S. 14-15; **collateral**: V. 10 (Huntington, Gilder, Sowell) |
| **March** | | |
| Mon. | 3 | G. 11; S. 22; **collateral**: P. 45; V. 11 (Khomeini) |
| Wed. | 5 | W. Preface, 1; THIRD TEST: G. 7-11; S. 13-22; Murphey |
| Fri. | 7 | W. 1; **collateral**: P. 47 |
| Mon. | 10 | W. 2 |
| Wed. | 12 | W. 2; **collateral**: P. 46 |
| Fri. | 14 | W. 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mon. | 17 | SPRING BREAK |
| Wed. | 19 | SPRING BREAK |
| Fri. | 21 | SPRING BREAK |
| Mon. | 24 | W. 3; **collateral**: P. 67 |
| Wed. | 26 | W. 4; FOURTH TEST: W. 1-3 |
| Fri. | 28 | W. 4, Conclusion; **collateral**: P. 72 |
| Mon. | 31 | G. 12 |
| **April** | | |
| Wed. | 2 | G. 13 |
| Fri. | 4 | G. 14 |
| Mon. | 7 | N. 1; **collateral**: P. 12; FIRST DRAFT DUE |
| Wed. | 9 | N. 2; **collateral**: P. 23; FIFTH TEST: W. 4; G. 12-14; N. 1 |
| Fri. | 11 | N. 3; Russell Kirk; Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn |
| Mon. | 14 | N. 4; PRESENTATIONS |
| Wed. | 16 | N. 5; PRESENTATIONS |
| Fri. | 18 | N. 6; PRESENTATIONS |
| Mon. | 21 | N. 7; PRESENTATIONS |
| Wed. | 23 | N. 8; SIXTH TEST: N. 2-6 |
| Fri. | 25 | N. 9; PRESENTATIONS |
| Mon. | 28 | N. 10; PRESENTATIONS |
| Wed. | 30 | N. 11; PRESENTATIONS |
| **May** | | |
| Fri. | 2 | PRESENTATIONS; SEVENTH QUIZ: N. 7-11 |