

School of Arts & Science SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

PSC 210-01 Political Thought 2006F

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ http://www.camosun.bc.ca/calendar/psc.php#104

 Ω Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only. It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Ross Lambertson		
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, V by appointment	Vednesday, and Thurs	day, 2:00-3:00; and
(c)	Location:	Paul Building, room 22	26A	
(d)	Phone:	370-3373	Alternative Phone:	Alternative (home) – 384-3390
(e)	Email:	Iamberts@camosun.bc.ca (note that I will not usually be accessing this from late Thursday afternoon until noon on Monday)		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to describe, explain, and critically assess:

- 1. The nature and functions of ideologies.
- 2. The history of a number of ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism (including social democracy, communism, and anarchism), nationalism, feminism, and fascism.
- 3. A range of short readings which reflect the ideas of a number of major ideological thinkers, including Machiavelli, Locke, Burke, Wollstonecraft, Marx, and Mill.

3. Required Materials

(a)	Texts	Roger Gibbins, Loleen Youngman, <i>Mindscapes: Political Ideologies Towards the 21st Century</i> (for sale in the College bookstore, and
()		on reserve in the College library).

(b) (Reading: "Political Thought - Readings - 2006" (for sale in the College bookstore).
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4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday – 3:30-4:50 – Young 211.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

(a)	Assignments	one term paper, worth 40% of the final grade; this paper can be rewritten and resubmitted after your instructor has graded it. The higher of the two grades will be official.
(b)	Quizzes	three multiple choice tests, each worth 20%, for a total of 60%.
(c)	Exams	none during examination week.
(d)	Other (eg, Attendance, Project, Group Work)	Class participation – an optional 2%.

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
95-100	A+		9
90-94	Α		8
85-89	A-		7
80-84	B+		6
75-79	В		5
70-74	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	С		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at **camosun.ca** or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
1	Incomplete: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating
	circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.

IP	In progress: A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
cw	Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at **camosun.ca** for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

TENTATIVE TIME-TABLE

Tuesday Thursday	Sept 5 Introduction to 5 Sept 7 Lecture 1: Chap	the course. oter 1 of text – "The Nature of Ideologies"; and Reading (A): selection from Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> .	
Tuesday Thursday	Sept 12 Lecture 2 - Libe Sept 14 Seminar on Re	eralism (p. 26 of text). ading (B): selections from Locke, Second Treatise of Government.	
Tuesday Thursday	Sept 19 Lecture 3 - Liberalism (cont.). Sept 21 Seminar on Reading (C): selections from Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> .		
Tuesday Thursday	Sept 26 Lecture 4 – Cor Sept 28 Seminar on Re	nservatism. ading (D): Burke, "Speech to the Electors of Bristol" and Reading (E): selections from Burke's <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> .	
Tuesday Thursday	Oct 3 Oct 5	Review TEST #1 - Lectures 1-4; seminars A-E	
Tuesday Thursday	Oct 10 Oct 12	Lecture 5 - Conservatism (cont.). Seminar on Reading (F): Irving Kristol, "America's 'Exceptional' Conservatism," and Reading (G): David Frum, "Introduction," to <i>What's Right</i> .	
Tuesday Thursday	Oct 17 Oct 19	Lecture 6 – Socialism. Seminar on Reading (H): Marx and Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> ; and Reading (I): G. Woodcock, "Anarchy Now."	
Tuesday Thursday	Oct 24 Oct 26	Lecture 7 - Socialism (cont.). Seminar on Reading (J): "The Regina Manifesto," and Reading (K): Richards, "The Party's Over: What Now?"	
Tuesday Thursday	Oct 31 Lecture 8 – Fer Nov 2	minism. Seminar on Reading (L): selections from Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> , and Reading (M): Emma Goldman, "Marriage and Love."	

TENTATIVE TIME-TABLE (cont.)

Tuesday Thursday	Nov 7 Nov 9	Review TEST #2 - Lectures 5-8; readings F-M
Tuesday Thursday		 Environmentalism Reading (N): Jim Hansen, "The Threat to the Planet," and Reading (O): Andrew McLaughlin, "The Heart of Deep Ecology."
Tuesday Thursday	Nov 21 Lecture 1 Nov 23	0 - Nationalism Seminar on Reading (P): "The Waffle Manifesto," ar

Seminar on Reading (P): "The Waffle Manifesto," and Reading (Q): René Lévesque, "A Country That Must Be Made."

TERM PAPER DUE: 12:00 Noon

Tuesday

Nov 28 Lecture 11 - Populism Nov 30 Lecture 12 - Fascism - see also seminar readings R-U Thursday

Tuesday Dec 5 Review

Thursday Dec 7 TEST #3 - Lectures 9-12; seminars N-U

Tuesday Dec 12 TERM PAPER REWRITE DUE: 12:00 Noon

CLASSES

A: LECTURES

- The lectures are based primarily upon the textbook, Gibbins and Youngman's Mindscapes.
- Lecture notes for each class will either be handed out ahead of time, or placed on the instructor's website (which is in the process of being constructed).
- The lectures will follow the tentative time-table, and students are expected to read the material *before* the lectures so they will be ready to ask and answer questions.
- Not everything in the textbook or the Lecture Notes will necessarily be covered in class. To some degree, you are responsible for learning the material on your own.
- The purpose of the lectures will be: to discuss the political news of the day
 - to explain the more difficult concepts
 - to look at things from other perspectives
 - to bring things up to date
 - to express disagreement with the textbook
 - to give students a chance to ask questions
 - to give students a chance to disagree
- Sometimes a lecture will begin with a discussion of current political issues.
- Review classes, just before a test, will give students a chance to ask questions and give the instructor to focus on anything not yet covered in class. The instructor will also try to provide students with copies of *pretests* that will be discussed in the review classes. These pretests will consist of sample questions that might be on the exam; they will be based on the key terms, as well as current political issues discussed in class.

B: SEMINARS:

- The seminars are based primarily upon the mandatory readings in "Political Thought Readings 2006," but students are also expected to read the pertinent chapters of the textbook. Note that
- there are also some optional readings for students who want to supplement their knowledge.
- The purpose of the seminars is the same as the lectures, but to give students even more chances for participation.
- Note that the "Lecture Notes" will contain "Seminar Questions." Students are expected to come prepared to answer these questions.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE TESTS

VALUE - There are three multiple-choice tests, each worth 20%.

DATE - See the time-table in this course outline.

CONTENT - The tests will be based upon three things:

- a. the "Key Terms" in the "Lecture Notes" for the textbook
- b. the "Key Terms" in the "Seminar Notes" for the readings
- c. any additional information included in a pretest.

FORMAT- The multiple-choice tests will be done on special answer sheets (supplied by your instructor), which are marked by a computer. Please bring a soft-lead pencil and an eraser.

- Each question will be worth one point.

AFTER

- After each test you will be given the answers so that you will know immediately how well you have done. After the computer has marked the tests the grade will be posted outside your instructor's door. Since the computer is not perfect, please check your grades to ensure that you have been given the grade you deserve.

MISSED TESTS

- You are expected to write your tests at the scheduled times and place. A student will not be permitted to write at another time unless he/she has a reasonable excuse, such as illness, a death in the family, etc.
- Should you miss a test, and have a reasonable excuse, please consult with your instructor in order to arrange a make-up test. This should normally be done within one week of missing your test. A make-up test will consist of a number of "Key Terms" that have to be defined and/or explained.

REWRITE

TESTS - If things go terribly wrong on either the first or second test, or if you are _____convinced that you can do better on a short-answer type test, you may be able to do a makeup test. Speak to your instructor, and set up a time for the makeup, but do this as soon as possible. A rewrite test will consist of a number of "Key Terms" that have to be defined and/or explained. The higher of the two grades will be the final grade.

TERM PAPER

VALUE - One term paper, worth 40% of your final grade.

DUE - See the time-table in this course outline. Either hand it in personally, or slip it

under your instructor's office door.

WARNING - Any work handed in late without a *written* explanation of a reasonable excuse (i.e. illness, a death in the family, etc.) will be penalized.

TOPIC - "How Can We Obtain the Most Freedom?" (This should demonstrate your

grasp of ideologies and your ability to think critically about them.)

SOURCES 1. Chapter Ten of the textbook ("The Radicals: Ideologies at the Edge").

2. As many as possible of the chapters of the textbook that have been covered in class (Chapters One through Nine). This means that if you do the rewrite (at

the end of the term), you will have more readings to cover.

3. As many of the seminar readings as possible.4. As many of the optional readings as possible – especially if you are aiming for

an A in the course.

NOTE - This is *not* a research paper, so you do not have to do a lot of background reading. (Of course, if you do want to read widely and use other sources, you will not be penalized.) Remember, however, in writing this paper you should be demonstrating **how much you have learned about ideologies in this course**. References to *only* the text (or no reference to Chapter 10), or to *just* one or two seminar readings, will result in a poor or failing grade.

FORMAT - from three to six typewritten pages, written in #12 font, Times New Roman,

double-spaced, with normal margins. Your instructor may read more than six pages if he finds merit in what you have to say, but has the option of finishing

after six pages.

- Number your pages, and provide citations in the form of **footnotes**, and a **bibliography**. (Refer to "Political Science Papers - Guide to Footnotes and

Bibliography" - on reserve in the Camosun Library.)

HELP - you may consult with your instructor before writing (bring him questions, a summary, or a

rough draft).

REWRITE - you may rewrite the paper if you are not satisfied with your mark. This version

should be marked "REWRITE" and stapled to the original version. Note that you will not receive a better mark unless you pay attention to most or all of the critical comments on your first draft. However, you will certainly not lose points

by attempting a rewrite; the higher of the two marks will be used.

EVALUATION

Your written work (except for your project report) will be graded as follows:

"A" level work (95-100% = A+ / 90-100% = A / 85-89% = A-)

- 1. AMOUNT OF WORK/RESEARCH 8.5 to 10
 - the work is long enough (close to the maximum) and
 - it deals with all the prescribed reading materials (and additional research, if called for).
- 2. PRESENTATION (ORGANIZATION, GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, SYNTAX, FOOTNOTES. BIBLIOGRAPHY 8.5 to 10
 - the work is free or nearly free of elementary errors in spelling, punctuation, etc.,
 - the work is well organized, and

- there are adequate footnotes, and a bibliography done according to the instructions.
- 3. UNDERSTANDING (BASED ON WHAT YOU SHOW ME) 8.5 to 10
 - the student has demonstrated a superior understanding of all the prescribed materials.
- 4. IDEAS (INCLUDING CRITICAL ANALYSIS) 8.5 to 10
 - the student has developed superior ideas.

"B" level work (84-80% = B+ / 75-79% = B / 70-74% = B-)

- 1. AMOUNT OF WORK/RESEARCH 7 to 8
 - the work is not quite maximum length, or
 - the work deals with not quite enough of the prescribed reading materials.
- 2. PRESENTATION (ORGANIZATION, GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, SYNTAX, FOOTNOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY 7 to 8
 - the work is at a high level, but there are still some errors in spelling, punctuation, etc., or
 - the work is well organized, but could be better, or
 - there are adequate footnotes, and a bibliography done according to the instructions, but they have not been done quite correctly.
- 3. UNDERSTANDING (BASED ON WHAT YOU SHOW ME) 7 to 8
 - the student has demonstrated a high level of understanding of all the prescribed materials, but it could be better.
- 4. IDEAS (INCLUDING CRITICAL ANALYSIS) 7 to 8
 - the student has developed some ideas that, although not yet superior, are at a high level.

EVALUATION (cont.)

"C" level work (65-69% = C + / 60-64% = C)

- 1. AMOUNT OF WORK/RESEARCH 6 to 6.5 out of 10.
 - the work is satisfactory, but fairly short, or
 - the work does not really cover enough of the required readings.
- 2. PRESENTATION (ORGANIZATION, GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, SYNTAX, FOOTNOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY 6 to 6.5 out of 10.
 - the work is satisfactory, but has too many elementary errors in spelling, punctuation, etc., or
 - the student misuses the apostrophe, or
 - the work is not well organized, or
 - there are few footnotes and bibliography; or they are not done correctly.
- 3. UNDERSTANDING (WHAT YOU SHOW ME) 6 to 6.5 out of 10.
 - this work shows a satisfactory understanding of the material, but not much more than this; it is sometimes not clear or just plain wrong, or leaves out some important points.
- 4. IDEAS (INCLUDING CRITICAL ANALYSIS) 6 to 6.5 out of 10.
 - the student has tried to develop some ideas, but they are not well-reasoned and/or they are not based on correct information.

"D" level work (50-59%)

- 1. AMOUNT OF WORK/RESEARCH 5 to 5.5 out of 10.
 - the work is unsatisfactory, it is below minimum length, or
 - the work shows inadequate use of the mandatory readings.

- 2. PRESENTATION (ORGANIZATION, GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, SYNTAX, FOOTNOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY 5 to 5.5 out of 10.
 - the work is unsatisfactory; it is full of elementary errors, or
 - it is very poorly organized.
- 3. UNDERSTANDING (WHAT YOU SHOW ME) 5 to 5.5 out of 10.
 - the work is unsatisfactory; the student has misunderstood several major points, or
 - has omitted several major points.
- 4. IDEAS (INCLUDING CRITICAL ANALYSIS)- 5 to 5.5 out of 10.
 - the student has made almost no attempt to develop ideas, or the ideas are inadequate.

EVALUATION (cont.)

"F" level work (below 50%)

- 1. AMOUNT OF WORK/RESEARCH less than 5 out of 10.
 - the paper is below minimum length, or
 - the paper deals with less than half of the mandatory material.
- 2. PRESENTATION (ORGANIZATION, GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, SYNTAX, FOOTNOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY less than 5 out of 10.
 - there are so many elementary errors that this is unacceptable, or
 - the student has committed an act of plagiarism or quasi-plagiarism.
- 3. UNDERSTANDING (WHAT YOU SHOW ME) less than 5 out of 10.
 - this shows no real understanding of the main points.
- 4. IDEAS (INCLUDING CRITICAL ANALYSIS) less than 5 out of 10.
 - there is no real attempt to develop any ideas.

All grades

- 5. FINAL GRADE: ____ out of 40.
- The FINAL GRADE is *not* an average of the four grades. It primarily based on the lowest grade of the first three criteria, multiplied by 4. (Your grade for "Ideas" will also be taken into consideration, although primarily for papers which are B+ or A level.)
- Your instructor sees the term papers as involving a set of hurdles, each of which is equally important. To receive a passing grade you must pass each one of these hurdles -- to receive an "A" you must do first-rate work at each level, to get a "B" you must do at least second-rate work at each level, and so forth. This is not the usual way of marking papers, but it can be defended on the basis that each student can rewrite his/her paper for a higher grade, and in doing so can concentrate upon improvements where they are most needed.
- Your paper should be a very carefully written draft, representing your best effort without detailed help from the instructor. When you get it back, you will receive comments about how to improve it, and you can decide whether or not you want to put in the extra work required to raise your grade. The process of writing a paper for this course should, therefore, be seen as involving an extended conversation between your instructor and yourself.

POL. SCI. 210 - LECTURE NOTES #1 - IDEOLOGIES

READINGS: "The Nature of Ideologies" (Chapter One of the textbook, *Mindscapes*).

"Reading A: Chapter XIV of Machiavelli's *The Prince*, in the course readings:

"Political Thought - Readings - 2006").

KEY TERMS:

Note that terms marked with an asterisk (*) are not clearly explained in the textbook. Your instructor will discuss them in class and in many cases will explain them in the "Additional Information" section at the end of the lesson

ideology

*empirical / is / fact / science - political science

*normative / ought / value / philosophy - political philosophy

*epistemology

*moral (or ethical) relativism

attributes of an ideology: - social construction - carriers of the creed

normative blueprint
 guide to political action
 formally articulated
 broad scope
 internal consistency
 durability

functions of ideologies - simplification

- legitimation or delegitimation

left vs. right - state ownership of businesses

minority rightsfamily values

political philosophers vs. ideologues

political culture / public opinion

Plato - The Republic* (see lecture notes on the next page)

Machiavelli - The Prince*

Locke - Second Treatise of Government (1690)*

Marx - The Communist Manifesto (1848) and Capital (1867)*

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Do you agree with Machiavelli about the proper role of a prince (or, in modern terms, a political leader)? Explain.

Additional Information

One way to define a political IDEOLOGY is to say that it is a belief system that tells us things about the way the world is and the way it should be. To put it another way, an ideology has both EMPIRICAL elements (beliefs about the way the world is) and NORMATIVE elements (beliefs about the way the world should be).

The terms empirical and normative are perhaps a bit confusing at first glance, but an understanding of them is essential if one is going to explore political ideologies (or, indeed, almost anything in social science).

EMPIRICAL - The term "empirical" refers to the world that is known to us through our senses (touch, sight, smell, hearing, and taste). Sometimes this is direct, and at other times it is indirect, through scientific instruments such as a microscope. An empirical statement or belief, therefore, can be tested; the evidence of our senses will tell us whether or not it is true. For example, one of the empirical elements of the ideology known as fascism was the belief that certain races were inherently more intelligent than others. Modern social science, however, has found evidence which refutes this. Such ideological beliefs about racial superiority exist as empirical facts, but they are scientifically invalid. (Conversely, one tenet of modern liberalism is that people of all races or ethnic groups are, on average, of equal intelligence – this is an empirical observation which modern science has demonstrated to be valid.)

Another way of defining "empirical" is to call it the realm of facts or fact statements. Or, to put it yet another way, it is concerned with explaining "what is." While all of us are concerned with knowing facts, the experts in this field are scientists, who have developed very accurate methods of testing empirical statements and sifting out truth from error.

NORMATIVE - The term "normative" refers to the world of values, ideas about right and wrong, including conceptions of justice. This is a world not known to us through our senses. It is true that one can "feel" injustice in the sense that one has a "gut reaction," but this is usually considered to be intuition, which may be valuable but is not the same thing as proof. For example, many people who consider themselves to be liberals have an intuitive feeling that laws restricting abortion are wrong, but many other people (who are often called conservatives) have just as strong an intuitive feeling that laws restricting abortion are not wrong.

Therefore, just as the empirical world is the world of facts, or "what is," so the normative world is concerned with values, or "what should be." But the normative realm is not open to scientific investigation; scientists are concerned only with the empirical world. This is why social scientists (including sociologists, anthropologists, etc.) can evaluate the empirical elements of different ideologies, and demonstrate that in some cases they are plainly wrong, but they have no business evaluating their normative aspects. Scientists leave the study of values, and statements about moral truth, to philosophers and religious leaders.

It is difficult, however, to determine normative (moral) truth. If an individual wants to argue that abortion is wrong, and maintains that we have a moral obligation to forbid it, how can a liberal demonstrate that this value is wrong? What constitutes proof? How can we distinguish between mere opinion and fact? These are philosophical questions that are not easily answered, although every ideology consists of a series of arguments and points which are intended to persuade others of certain normative "truths."

The branch of philosophy which examines how we can know things, and distinguish between truth and error, or fact and opinion, is known as EPISTEMOLOGY. This course is not an introduction to philosophy, but it does introduce students to the field of POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, and it raises several important philosophical issues, including the epistemological question, "How can we know normative truth?"

Early philosophers (until fairly recently) firmly believed that normative truth could be attained as clearly and definitively as we obtain empirical truth. They were not always in agreement about the best means of achieving this knowledge, and often they disagreed about their conclusions, but they were almost universally in agreement that moral truth existed.

Modern philosophers, however, deny that normative truths can be proved in the same way as empirical truths, and some of them argue that this makes it impossible to know whether or not a normative statement is true. They therefore argue in favour of ETHICAL (or MORAL) RELATIVISM -- the idea that moral values are simply a matter of opinion, that they are equally true.

Obviously, moral relativism is the enemy of ideology. Each ideology attempts to persuade us of both its empirical and normative superiority. From the position of moral relativism, however, all ideologies are, normatively speaking, equally true (and equally false). Some of them may turn out to be more persuasive than others, but for a moral relativist the goal of "moral truth" is unattainable.

On the other hand, moral relativism is an uncomfortable position to maintain. One political philosopher has noted that "the seamy side of moral relativism" is the conclusion that if all morals are equally true, then Hitler's ideas about Jews were neither right nor wrong, but simply different. Most people intuitively disagree with such a position, but *proving* that it is wrong is a difficult – perhaps impossible – task.

PLATO - a pre-Christian philosopher, famous for a number of works, including *The Republic*. Plato wanted to distinguish between truth and opinion, and *The Republic* is an extended analysis of the nature of political justice. Since Plato claimed to know what was just, the book also outlines his ideal ("utopian") vision of a society ruled by "philosopher kings" who could make the distinction between truth and opinion, who also understood the nature of justice, and therefore were entitled to rule ordinary people. *The Republic* is often viewed as a work that is profoundly anti-democratic, perhaps even totalitarian, since Plato suggested that it is morally acceptable to force people to do things against their will as long as they are being forced to do what is just.

MACHIAVELLI - a fifteenth-century Italian thinker who is generally considered the first modern political philosopher. Unlike Plato and other earlier thinkers, Machiavelli did not attempt to create a picture of an ideal political system which would be a model for political rulers to imitate. Instead, he attempted to find, in examples drawn from history, rules and guidelines for political success. In short, rather than telling his Prince what was just, he told him what worked.

LOCKE - a seventeenth-century English philosopher, whose major political work is his *Second Treatise of Government* (1690). Locke is viewed as one of the founders of the liberal tradition because of his insistence that government exists, and should exist, to serve the interests of the individuals who have created it. (This does not mean, however, that Locke was a democrat, for those entitled to rule themselves through the state were only those with considerable money and property.)

MARX - a nineteenth-century student of economics, whose most famous works are *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) and *Capital* (1867). Marx saw history in terms of class struggles, with his age marked by a conflict between capitalists (who lived off their investments) and workers (who lived by selling their labour to capitalists). According to Marx, the modern state was not a real democracy, because it represented primarily the interests of capitalists, and therefore it should (and would) be replaced by a political system representing the interests of the majority of people, the working class.

Marx also argued that the values of capitalists permeated society and were often unconsciously accepted by the workers. Since these values included notions about the legitimacy of capitalism and the political system, he saw them as an ideology which helped to create "false consciousness" and undermined the will of the workers to revolt against the "bourgeois democracy" of the modern state.