This course introduces five important "isms", that is to say arguments about the nature of society, the state, and social transformation. The "isms" we will study are: Anarchism, Conservatism, Fascism, Liberalism, Marxism and its varieties, and Neo-liberalism. The course seeks to develop political literacy defined as an understanding of the fundamental assumptions and arguments from which competing political perspectives derive.

Our class time will be divided into two parts. A discussion component in which students will break into smaller groups to work on particular problems, and a lecture component, which will take up the latter part of the class. Assessment is based on a series of in class exams and participation in the discussions.

Assessment:

Class participation: 10%
Exams: 3*20%=60%
Final: 30%

Course Materials:

Most course materials are available at the bookstore at the Cal Student Store at 2495 Bancroft Way.
Phone: (510) 229–4703.
Email: berkeleyorders@bbasolutions.com

Store Hours
Mon–Fri: 9:00am – 6:00pm
Sat: 10:00am–6:00pm
Sun: 11:00am – 5:00 pm

Required Texts:
Bakunin, Michael. Statism and Anarchy.
Hayek, F.A. The Fatal Conceit.
Marx, Karl. Later Political Writings.

All other materials will be posted on the b-course website for this class and are indicated with an (*) in the syllabus below.
May 23

Conservatism


May 25

Liberalism (1)


May 30

Utopian Socialism


(Exam 1)

June 1

Marx


June 6

Engels


June 8

Anarchism


(Exam 2)
June 13
*Orthodox Marxism*


June 15
*Communism (Bolshevism)*


June 20
*Syndicalism*


June 22
*Conservative Revolution and Fascism*


(Exam 3)

June 27
*Liberalism (2) and Neo-Liberalism*


June 29
*In Class Final*