

# Paper 1: Political Ideology

PS 101

Due September 17, 2014

The purpose of this writing assignment is to make sure that you understand and are able to articulate the differences and similarities between different ideologies. The other goal of this paper is to think about ideology beyond the confines of class, and discuss how it might impact people's positions on current political issues.

First, choose **one** of the following policy issues or topics:

- Occupy Wall Street movement
- Medicare
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the 2009 economic stimulus legislation)
- Same-sex marriage
- U.S. aid to foreign countries

In **3 - 5** pages, briefly describe the opposing positions in the debate surrounding the issue. We have deliberately chosen issues for which people frequently have differing opinions. What exactly are they arguing about?

Cite at least one external source (a source that is not the textbook or other class material) in your explanation of the policy issue. Please avoid using opinion articles and websites or publications with political biases (FOX news, MSNBC, etc.) as sources.

After you summarize your chosen issue, write a response to one of the following questions, based on the information you have learned so far in this course:

- What policy position would **classical liberals** take regarding this issue, and what policy position would **modern liberals** take? (You may also compare classical conservatives with modern conservatives.) Compare and contrast these positions, and explain your reasons why each group would adopt them. Also consider whether or not there are parts of each ideology that could be used to support the positions of the opposite view. What are they?

OR

- What policy position would **classical liberals** take regarding this issue? What policy position would **classical conservatives** take? Compare and contrast these positions, and explain your reasons why each group would adopt them. Also consider whether or not there are parts of each ideology that could be used to support the positions of the opposite view. What are they?