We will examine leading thinkers and ideologies of the twentieth century, with an emphasis on John Dewey, the American philosopher best known for his pragmatism and philosophy of education. One theme of the course will be the antagonism between defenders and opponents of liberal democracy.

Readings:
The following books have been ordered for purchase and are also at the library on two-hour reserve:

Schedule of Readings:
W Jan 20 Introduction
M Jan 25 Dewey, pp. 3-21
W Jan 27 Dewey, pp. 22-32
M Feb 1 Dewey, pp. 46-70
W Feb 3 Dewey, pp. 71-78, 102-12, 162-71
M Feb 8 Dewey, pp. 229-49
W Feb 10 Dewey, pp. 250-64
M Feb 15 No class (Washington’s Birthday)
W Feb 17 Dewey, pp. 265-69, 274-77
M Feb 22 Dewey, pp. 281-307; paper #1 due
W Feb 24 Dewey, pp. 308-22
M Feb 29 Dewey, pp. 323-43
W Mar 2 Thomas, *Democratic Socialism* (excerpt); Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (excerpt) (both on WebCampus)
M Mar 7 Dewey, pp. 347-62
W Mar 9 Dewey, pp. 363-79
M Mar 14 Dewey, pp. 391-410
W Mar 16 Midterm examination
M Mar 21 No class (spring break)
W Mar 23 No class (spring break)
M Mar 28 Lenin, *The Teachings of Karl Marx* and *State and Revolution* (excerpts) (both on WebCampus)
W Mar 30  Rocco, *The Political Doctrine of Fascism* (excerpt); Mussolini, *The Doctrine of Fascism* (excerpt); Huber, *Constitutional Law of the Greater German Reich* (excerpt) (all on WebCampus)

M Apr 4  Heidegger, “The Self-Assertion of the German University” and “The Rectorate 1933-34” (both on WebCampus)

W Apr 6  Heidegger, “Only a God Can Save Us,” pp. 267-75 (on WebCampus)

M Apr 11  Heidegger, “Only a God Can Save Us,” pp. 275-84 (on WebCampus)

W Apr 13  Heidegger, *Introduction to Metaphysics*, pp. vii-xxiii, 1-14; paper #2 due


W Apr 20  Heidegger, *Introduction to Metaphysics*, pp. 25-35


W Apr 27  Strauss, pp. 159-66, 2-24

M May 2   Strauss, pp. 24-57

W May 4   Strauss, pp. 289-319

Final examination: M May 9, 1:00-3:00

Format:

Sessions will combine lecture and discussion. It is imperative, therefore, that you come to class having done the assigned reading for that day. A superior method of preparation is to read the material twice: first fairly quickly in order to grasp the direction of the argument, then slowly and thoroughly, taking notes as you go. Often I will refer to page numbers in the readings, so it is important that we all have the same editions of them and that you bring your book to class.

Use of a computer or other electronic device during class is prohibited, except with prior permission; unauthorized use will be considered the equivalent of an absence for that class. Unauthorized recording of the class is also prohibited. Our focus should be on the readings and on our fellow human beings trying to learn from the readings; computers tend to be a distraction. Electronic books are permitted, but you should let me know that you are using one, and the electronic book must be the same edition as the print edition.

Assignments:

Written assignments include:

- Two papers of 1,250 to 1,750 words each on topics assigned from the readings. They will be due at the beginning of class on the specified dates. The paper with the higher grade will count 25% of your final grade; the other paper will count 20%.
- A midterm examination. It will consist mainly or entirely of essay questions and will count 20% of your final grade.
- A final examination. It will consist mainly or entirely of essay questions and will count 35% of your final grade.

You must complete all written assignments to be eligible to pass the course. A record of significant contributions to discussion in class will increase the grade on one of the assignments by one increment (e.g., from B to B+). Your grade may be reduced if you have more than two unexcused absences; lateness normally counts as an absence.

Extensions for submitting papers will be granted only in an emergency (e.g., personal illness, preferably with a note from a doctor, or serious illness in one’s family). The grade on a paper will be reduced by one increment for each business day it is late without an approved extension. No alternate arrangements for examinations will likely be made except in an emergency.
**Other Information:**

The university requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair-use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violation of copyright and fair-use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for violation of fair-use laws. Violation of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under university policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair-use policies, the university encourages you to see [http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright](http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright).

Any academic misconduct will make a student liable to failure of the course. One example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: using the words or ideas of another, from any source (including the Internet), without proper citation. The academic misconduct policy for students may be reviewed at [http://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct](http://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct).

By UNLV policy for the sake of students’ privacy, faculty should send e-mail to students only via students’ Rebelmail accounts. Please use that account to send me e-mail. If you use another account, I will use my discretion in deciding whether to respond.

Free assistance with writing is available at the Writing Center (CDC 3-301; telephone 702-895-3908). Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority.

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you should contact the Disability Resource Center (SSC A143; telephone 702-895-0866) for coordination of services. If you are registered with the center, bring your academic accommodation plan to me so that we may work together to implement the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach me in front of others to discuss your needs.

If you miss a written assignment because of observance of a religious holiday, you will be given an opportunity during the semester to make up missed work. The makeup will apply only to the absence on the religious holiday. It is your responsibility to notify me no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, January 29, of your intention to participate in religious holidays that do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For more information, see [http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531](http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531).

This class meets the requirements for the Great Works Academic Certificate.