



# Ten Questions on the Political Spectrum

September 2025

**By Professor Emeritus Michael Krasner**

With regard to the Political Spectrum handout that you have received:

1. Do you have any disagreements or questions about this version of the political spectrum?
2. Where would you place yourself on this spectrum?
3. Where do you think most of your students would fall on the spectrum?
4. How would you fill in the blanks in the spectrum? What definitions would you give for liberal, conservative, reactionary, and fascist?
5. Where would you put communism on this spectrum? How would you define it? How does it differ from socialism?
6. How would you teach the differences?
7. What is the difference between democratic socialism and social democracy?
8. If Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez call themselves democratic socialists, why did I them put in the category of social democrats? (same applies to Zohran Mamdani)
9. How would you teach the differences between democratic socialism and social democracy?
10. Have you had your students explore their own political viewpoints by using apps like the Political Compass or SapplyValues?