-General reflections on the concept : the rough division between the negative and the neutral and/or positive conception of ideology. The epistemological and the practical dimension of the problem. The class character of ideology. The questions arising from  its conception as a “system of ideas”. The multiple manifestations of ideology. Versions of the declaration of an “end of ideology”.

- Tracing back the historical and theoretical conditions of the emergence of “ideology” (the Enlightenment, D. de Tracy) and the relevant debates. The role of Napoleon.

-K. Marx και Fr. Engels:

The German Ideology: The polemic against the “independent existence of ideas” and their omnipotence. The conception of ideology   as inverted consciousness. The position regarding the   dominant ideology.

The apparent enlargement of the concept of ideology in terms of the distinction between “base” and “superstructure” ( Marx: “Preface” to the Critique of Political Economy).

The elaborations around the “commodity fetishism” in the 1st vol. of Capital and the modifications that they provoke for the conception of ideology.

 Engels and ideology as “false consciousness” (Letter to  Fr. Mehring)

-  2nd International:  The process towards a neutralization of the  concept of ideology. The determining role of Lenin in this respect.

- G. Lukács: ideology as class consciousness  and the extension of the Marxian concept of “”fetishism “ and “reification”. The specific character of the proletarian  class consciousness. The critique of science.

- Α. Gramsci:  the conception of ideology as world view and the distinction between “arbitrary” and “organic” ideologies. The significance of his elaborations around “hegemony” and “common sense”.

-  L. Althusser: the concept of the “epistemological break” and its revisions. The distinction between “Ideology in general” and the specific ideologies. The systematization of the conception of ideology on the basis of the critique to the “ideology of the  `idea’”.

The sections that you have to pay attention to in Eagleton’s book are the following:

-Introduction

-1.What Is Ideology?

-2.Ideological Strategies

-3.From the Enlightenment to the Second International

-4. From  Lukacs to  Gramsci (it is not necessary to see in this section the pages regarding  Mannheim and  Goldmann)

-5. From the section: From  Adorno to  Bourdieu, see the pages which regard  Althusser, i.e. 136-156

-Conclusion