

Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2024

**PO1010(A2/VC): Introduction to Political Studies, Ideas and Forms of Government
3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. T. Ruth Lambert	PHONE:	780-539-2093
OFFICE:	E401E	E-MAIL:	tlambert@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to key political concepts such as power, authority, order, equality, freedom and justice. These concepts are examined as they are employed by different ideologies including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, anarchism, feminism, postmodernism and religious fundamentalism. Political ideas and practices are also examined in the context of democratic, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of government. The role of the news media under different kinds of regime may also be considered.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Reading materials will be available on myClass. There is no required textbook to purchase.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus and Videoconference

This course includes a videoconference section. Students registered in the videoconference section are able to attend lectures and complete all course components without attendance on campus.

Students are required to have a stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements.

Where disruptions or other technological issues occur with institutional or instructor systems on campus or elsewhere, instructors will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made for videoconference students.

Some videoconference courses may require students to incur reasonable costs for proctoring and other services essential to maintaining the academic integrity of the course. Instructors should design their course to minimize the financial burden on students and are required to submit cost estimates to the responsible department chairperson for approval prior to the start of the course.

This course has the requirements listed below for videoconference students. Failure to meet these requirements may affect attendance and participation grades or result in a grade of zero for supervised assessments (for example tests, exams, or in-class writing assignments).

VIDEOCONFERENCE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Technology:	Please have the following in working order for class: a webcam, microphone, and speakers or headphones. Technological glitches happen, but these are tools you will need to participate in class.
Class Participation:	Please log into class as you would attend class in-person. We will discuss videoconferencing etiquette and expectations during the first few classes so that we can agree to class expectations as a group. Any activities that we do in class will be designed for participation from those in-person and on videoconference.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the different ideological dimensions of politics and be able to explain how ideology influences different views.
- Be able to differentiate between democratic and non-democratic rule by identifying regime characteristics and assessing the operation of different elements within political systems.
- Articulate tensions in justice and freedom that shape political systems.
- Be able to engage in dialogue about political issues using data and evidence.
- Think critically about political issues and support arguments with evidence.
- Identify and cite information in text and other sources.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca/>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assignment	Weight:	Due date:
Reading response 1	10%	September 18, by 4pm
Reading response 2	10%	October 9, by 4pm
Midterm test (in class)	20%	October 21 (in class)
Op-Ed assignment	Annotated bibliography: 10% Final submission: 20%	November 18, by 4pm December 4, by 4pm
Final exam	30%	Scheduled by the registrar

Assignment information:

- Detailed information for each assignment will be available on myClass and covered during lectures prior to the due date.
- The late penalty for assignments is 5% a day.
- Written assignments will be submitted on myClass and submitted to Turnitin.
- Plagiarism, or submitting work which is not your own (including AI-generated work) constitutes academic misconduct and will be addressed under the provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked on page 4 in this outline). In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked on page 4 in this outline) may be applied.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Weeks 1-4	Theoretical and analytical foundations of political science
Weeks 5-7	Questions of justice and the social contract
Weeks 8-9	Regime variations
Weeks 10-14	Ideology and its influences
Week 15	Review

- A detailed schedule will be available in myClass. Students are expected to complete weekly assigned readings for each topic.
- There are no required texts to purchase for this course. All materials will be available through myClass or NWP's Learning Commons.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Respectful participation: One of the key components of learning in political science is to engage with ideas that may differ from your own. We have ideas about politics because politics is all around us. We may respond quickly to information that opposes our own views, but one purpose of learning in this course is to reflect on ideas and better understand opposing ideas. Respectful dialogue with classmates is required. Expectations around participation will be covered during the first class and re-visited throughout the term as necessary. If you have any concerns about participation, please contact me by email or in-person.

Attendance: Try to attend class regularly. Lecture time is a time to prod at information, ask questions and develop information synthesis skills. We will also use some lecture time to work through issues on assignments.

Preparation: Please try to come to class prepared to engage with the material and ask questions or offer analysis on the topics we are discussing. Assigned readings for the week should be completed by the first class of the week (Monday). This means you may need to plan ahead for your reading schedule.

Assignment preparation: Please see below for NWP's statement on academic misconduct. In PO 1010, we will review these statements together as you are preparing your assignments so that you can ask questions and seek clarification. Plagiarism or presenting others' work (including AI) as your own will not be tolerated.

Assignment deadlines: In general, you are expected to submit your assignments on time as per the syllabus. It is your responsibility to manage your time to meet these deadlines. The deadlines ensure work is complete so I can provide feedback to help prepare you for the assignments that follow. However, if you are struggling to meet a deadline, please contact me to discuss prior to the deadline. Please note that extensions are not guaranteed.

Final exam: The final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. Please do not make plans for the end of the semester that will prevent you from writing the exam.

Recording or photographing content is not allowed, unless permission has been granted by the instructor.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.