

Introduction to Government and Politics 1000

1994-95 MWF 1:00- 1:50

Instructor: Peter Blaikie

This course introduces students to major political ideas and concepts involved in the study of political science.

Objectives: The objectives of this course include:

1. an understanding of key concepts and theories of political science;
2. a basic understanding of the structure and operation of the Canadian and American political systems;
3. an ability, by the end of the course, to discuss and analyze political issues and events with some confidence.

Grading is based on the 9 point system.

1st mid-term exam: 15%

Christmas Exam: 25%

2nd mid-term exam: 15%

2nd term paper (about 10 pages double-spaced, typed): 15%

Final exam: 30%

Required texts:

An Introduction to Government and Politics(4th ed.) Dickerson and Flanagan (DF)

Introductory Readings in Government and Politics (3rd ed.) Dickerson, Flanagan and Nevitte (DFN)

The Canadian Polity (3rd ed.) Ronald Landes (L)

Readings:

1. The Idea of Politics and Political Science  
DF-introduction and ch. 1. DFN ch. 1, L ch. 1

2. Power and the State  
DF-ch. 2,4,13, DFN ch. 2-5, L-ch. 2
3. Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law  
DF- ch.6-7, DFN-ch. 6
4. Liberalism and Liberal Democracy  
DF-ch.9-10,ch. 15-16,ch. DFN-18-19
5. Conservatism  
DF-ch. 11, DFN-ch.10
6. Socialism and Fascism  
DF-ch. 12, 18-19, DFN-ch. 11-12
7. Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism in Canada  
DFN-ch. 14-16
8. Pluralism and Elitism  
DF-ch. 17, DFN-ch.17
9. Parliamentary and Presidential Systems  
DF-ch. 20, DFN-ch. 21
- 10.Federalism  
DF-ch. 21, DFN-ch. 22-23, L-ch. 3
- 11.The Constitution Act, 1982 and Meech Lake Accord (1987)  
L-ch. 14, L-appendices, DF-appendices A and B
- 12.Political Culture  
DF-ch. 22-23, DFN-ch.-24, L- ch. 8,12
- 13.Interest Groups  
DF-ch. 24, DFN-ch. 25, L-ch. 13
- 14.Political Parties and Elections  
DF-ch. 25,27, DFN-ch. 26,27, L-ch. 9-11
- 15.Executive  
DF-ch. 29, DFN-ch. 29, L-ch. 4

16. Bureaucracy  
DF-ch. 30, DFN-ch. 30, L-ch. 5
17. Legislative  
DF-ch. 28, DFN-ch. 28, L-ch. 6
18. Judiciary  
DF-ch. 31, DFN-ch. 31, L-ch. 7
19. Introduction to International Relations  
readings TBA