

Introduction to Government and Politics 1000

Y 1996-97 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:

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:

1st term 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(4th ed.) Landes(L)

Additional readings may be assigned from time to time.

Readings:

1. The Idea of Politics and Political Science
DF- intro and ch. 1, DFN 1, L ch. 1
2. Power and the State
DF-ch. 2,4,13; DFN 2-5, L-ch. 2
3. Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law
DF- ch. 6-7, DFN-6
4. Liberalism
DF-ch. 9-10,15,16; DFN 8-9
5. Conservatism
DF-ch. 11; DFN-10
6. Socialism and Fascism
DF-ch. 12, 18-19; DFN11-12
7. Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism in Canada
DFN 14-15
8. Pluralism, Elitism and Liberal Democracy
DF-ch. 17; DFN17-18
9. Parliamentary and Presidential Systems
DF-ch. 20; DFN21
10. Federalism
DF-ch.21; DFN-22-23; L-3
11. The Constitution Act, 1982; Meech Lake Accord(1987); Charlottetown Accord(1992)
DF- appendices A,B; L-appendix

12. Political Culture and Socialization

DF-22-23; DFN24; L-8

13. Interest Groups

DF-ch. 24; DFN25; L12

14. Political Parties and Elections

DF-ch. 25,27; DFN26-27; L9-11

15. Executive

DF-ch. 29; DFN29; L4

16. Bureaucracy

DF-ch. 30; DFN30; L5

17. Legislative

DF-ch. 28; DFN28; L6

18. Judiciary

DF-ch. 31, L7

19. Canada's Role in the International System

DF-ch. 5,8