

GRAND PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 100 [UT 161]

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1992 - 1993  
MAY 13:00-13:50

Instructor: Scott Malpina  
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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce the first year or beginning student to the study of politics and government and to the study of policy issues from a political perspective with primary emphasis on Canada and other democratic countries. Topics studied include political ideologies, constitutions, federalism, law and the courts, civil liberties, public opinion, elections, etc. Specific issues addressed will include the environment, the growth of government, Quebec and other matters of ongoing concern.

Given that "a day is a long time in politics" and given the political agenda for 1992-93 (the Quebec referendum, the U.S. presidential election, the search for independence in the former Yugoslavia, continued U.S.-Iraqi disagreements, etc.) some deviation from the readings is anticipated. Students are expected to keep reasonably up to date on major events and to be prepared to discuss such events in class.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are

1. to gain basic understanding of concepts, terms, and major theories in political science.
2. to gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the Canadian and other "democratic" political systems in a comparative framework.
3. to apply political analysis to contemporary issues and debates.

PREREQUISITE

Nil

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades for each component will be recorded on the 9 point scale.

Quizzes	10%	10 quizzes, dates TBA
Library Assignment 1 (First Term)	5%	Due October 5, 1992
First Term Paper	15%	Due November 16, 1992
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week
Library Assignment 2 (Second Term)	5%	Due February 3, 1993
Second Term Paper	15%	Due March 15, 1993
Final Examination	25%	Exam week

READING SYSTEM

Grades throughout the year that have been calculated in percentages will be converted to the nine point scale by using the following conversion table:

Description	Grade	Percentage Equivalent
Excellent	9	90%-100%
	8	80%-89%
	7	70%-79%
Good	6	60%-69%
	5	50%-59%
Fair	4	40%-49%
	3	30%-39%
	2	20%-29%
	1	0%-19%

A NOTE ON TERM PAPERS

The ability to express yourself in writing is required for the satisfactory completion of this course. Written submissions must be coherent and legible. The instructor may deduct grades for grammatical, spelling, and/or punctuation errors. This will be discussed further in class. Term papers for this course are normally in the 1500-2000 word range (10-15 pages typed, double spaced). Suggested topics and a guide on the writing of Term Papers in Political Science will be distributed in class.

TEXTS

Students should ensure that the correct edition of the following texts are obtained:

Mark O. Dickerson and Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics (3rd edition) (P on the reading list)

Ronald Landes, The Canadian Polity (2nd edition)

Mark D. Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan and Neil Neville, Introductory Readings in Government and Politics (1st edition) (DFW on the Reading list)

In addition to readings from the above texts, some reserve library readings are required from:

B.B. McCullough, Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies (This text is on reserve in the library.)

LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

Students are responsible for all required readings, lecture material and handouts. Additional and/or replacement readings may, on occasion, be assigned as events dictate. Reserve readings are available from the Learning Resources Centre (Library). Readings, while numerous, are generally brief. Lecture dates appear below as a rough guide and some variation is to be expected depending on student interest, and the use of class time to discuss topics of current interest such as the Quebec situation, the events in the Soviet Union, etc.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

4 week

- a) Course Outline and Requirements
- b) Defining Political Science

DF, Preface and Introduction

- c) Approaches to Political Science  
Landes, pp. 52-54

UNIT II: BASIC CONCEPTS

2 weeks

- a) Society, Government, and Politics

DF, chapter 1  
Landes, pp. 5-15, 28-36  
DFN, chapter 1

- b) The Growth and Roles of Government

- c) Sovereignty, Nation, and State

DF, chapters 4, 5  
Campbell and Pai, "The Free Trade Debate: What was it About?" (Reserve #1) (skin read)  
DFN, chapters 3, 4, 5

- d) Power, Legitimacy, Authority

DF, chapters 2, 3  
Landes, pp. 36-52  
DFN, chapters 3, 7

- e) Constitutionalism, Law, and Rule of Law

DF, chapters 6, 7  
DFN, chapter 6

UNIT III: POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

4 weeks

- a) The Meaning of Ideology

DF, chapter 9  
Christenson, et al., Ideologies and Modern Politics  
chapter 1, (Reserve #2)

- b) Fascism and National Socialism

DF, chapter 11  
McCullough, pp. 175-180 (Reserve Book)

- c) Core Democratic Ideologies: Conservatism, Liberalism and Democratic Socialism

DF, chapters 10, 11, 12  
McCullough, pp. 31-34, 38-40, 151-157 (Reserve Book)  
DFN, chapters 8, 9, 10

- d) Revisionist and Applied Democratic Ideologies: Reform Liberalism and Neo Conservatism

P, chapter 3  
McCullough, pp. 47-52, 98-108  
DFN, chapter 12

- e) Marxism and its future

DFN, chapter 11  
Gorbachev, Perestroika, chapter 1 (Reserve #3)

f) Partial and Emerging Ideologies: Fundamentalism and Environmentalism, and the "new politics", McCullough, pp. 227-234, 243-253, 272-280, 288-296 (Reserve Book)  
DFN, chapter 16

g) Summary, Left, Right and Centre

DF, chapter 14  
Lalbert et al. "In Search of Left/Right ..."  
(Reserve #4)  
DFN, chapters 14, 15

UNIT IV: BASIC FORMS OF GOVERNMENT 2 weeks

a) Authoritarian and Totalitarian Forms

DF, chapters 15, 17, 18  
Landes, pp. 15-18  
DFN, chapters 19, 20

b) Liberal Democracy

DF, chapter 16

c) Liberal Democratic Variants: Democratic Elitism and Pluralism

Dye & Zeigler, The Irony of Democracy, chapter 1  
(Reserve #5)  
DFN, chapters 17, 18

UNIT V: CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES 6 weeks

a) Conceptual Overview

DF, chapters 19, 20  
Landes, pp.18-23

b) Federalism

Landes, Chapter 1  
DFN, Chapter 22

c) The U.S. Constitution

The Constitution of the United States (Reserve #6)

d) Canadian Constitutional Development

DF, Appendices A, B The Constitutional Amendment, 1907 (Reserve #7)  
Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meach Lake" (Reserve #8)

e) Re-thinking Federalism in the Canadian Context

DFN, chapter 23  
Other readings, TBA

UNIT VI: GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES 4 weeks

a) The Executive

Landes, chapter 4  
DFN, chapter 29  
DF, chapter 27  
Lammers and Nyomarky, "The Canadian Cabinet in Comparative Perspective" (Reserve #9)  
Franks, "Borrowing From The United States..." (Reserve #10)

b) The Legislative Branch

Landes, chapter 4  
DFN, chapter 28  
DF, chapter 26  
Lemco and Regenstreif, "Let the Senate Be..." (Reserve #11)  
Kaduck, "Prairie Fire..." (Reserve #12)

c) The Civil Service

Landes, chapter 5  
DF, chapter 28  
DFN, chapter 30

d) The Judiciary

DFN, chapter 31  
Landes, chapter 7  
DF, chapter 29  
Russell, "The Effect of a Charter ..." (Reserve #13)

UNIT VIII: POLITICAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOUR

4 weeks

## a) Political Culture

DPN, chapter 14  
 DF, chapter 21  
 Landes, chapter 8, 12

## b) Pressure Groups

Landes, chapter 13  
 DF, chapter 22  
 DPN, chapter 25  
 Pross, "Pressure Groups..." (Reserve #14)

## c) Political Parties

DPN, chapter 17  
 DF, chapter 23  
 Lowi, "The Mythology of the American Two-Party System" (Reserve #15)  
 Landes, chapter 9

## d) Elections and Electoral Systems

Landes, chapter 10, 11  
 DPN, chapter 27  
 DF, chapter 25  
 Glass et.al., "Voter Turnout..." (Reserve 16)

UNIT VIII: PUBLIC POLICY

1 week

## a) Theoretical Considerations

Anderson, The Study of Public Policy, pp. 1-25  
 (Reserve #17)  
 Schwartz, "Comparing United States and Canadian ..."  
 (Reserve #18)  
 Gibbins et.al., "Public Opinion and Policy Preferences..." (Reserve #19)

## b) Budgetary Processes and Control

Doorn and Phield, Canadian Public Policy, chapter 11  
 (Reserve #20)

UNIT IX: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS\*

2 weeks

## a) Overview

DF, chapter 8

## b) Change and Stability in the International System

Readings TBA

UNIT X: ISSUES AND TRENDS\*

2 weeks

## a) Quebec and Canada in the 1990's

## b) Native Self Government

## c) Other Issues

\* NOTE: These topics are likely to be dealt with at various points throughout the course and may not be the subject of any particular unit of the course.