

NOV 28 1995

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1000 [UT (6)]

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1995 - 1996

M, W, F 13:00 - 13:50

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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 1995-96 (the Quebec referendum, the presidential primaries, continued turmoil in the middle-east, 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 in percentages.

Quizzes	15%	10 quizzes, (approx.) dates TBA
Library Assignment 1	5%	Due October 6, 1995
First Term Paper	15%	Due November 17, 1995
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week
Library Assignment 2	5%	Due February 2, 1996
Second Term Paper	15%	Due March 16, 1996
Final Examination	25%	Exam week

GRADING SYSTEM:

Grades throughout the year will be calculated in percentages and converted at the end of the course to the nine point scale by using the following conversion table:

Description	Grade	Percentage Equivalent
Excellent	9	90%-100%
	8	80%-89%
	7	72%-79%
Good	6	65%-71%
	5	57%-64%
	4	50%-56%
Pass	3	45%-49%
	2	26%-44%
	1	0%-25%

A NOTE ON TERM PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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 2500 word range (10 pages typed, double spaced). Suggested topics will be distributed in class. Papers and assignments are due at the start of class on the date due. Late submissions will be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Otherwise, late submission will be assessed a reduced grade - normally 5% per day or portion thereof (including weekends and holidays).

TEXTS

For students requiring a reference on writing, D. Hacker, A Canadian Writing Guide has been ordered for this course and is available in the Bookstore.

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

- Mark G. Dickenson and Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics (4th edition) (OF on the reading list)
- Ronald Landes, The Canadian Polity (4th edition)

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

- H.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 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.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

1 week

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

DF, Preface and Introduction

- c) Approaches to Political Science

Landes, pp. 63-66

UNIT II: BASIC CONCEPTS

2 weeks

- a) Society, Government, and Politics

DF, chapter 1
Landes, chapter 1

- b) The Growth and Roles of Government

c) Sovereignty, Nation, and State

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

- d) Power, Legitimacy, Authority

DF, chapters 2, 3
Landes, chapter 2

- e) Constitutionalism, Law, and Rule of Law

DF, chapters 4, 7

UNIT IV: BASIC FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

2 weeks

- a) Authoritarian and Totalitarian Forms
DF, chapters 16, 18, 19
- b) Liberal Democracy
DF, chapter 17
- c) Liberal Democratic Variants: Democratic Elitism and Pluralism
DF, chapter 22
Dye & Zeigler, *The Irony of Democracy*, chapter 1 (Reserve #5)

UNIT V: CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

4 weeks

- a) Conceptual Overview
DF, chapters 20, 21
- b) Federalism
Lands, Chapter 3
- c) The U.S. Constitution
The Constitution of the United States (Reserve #8)
- d) Canadian Constitutional Development
DF, Appendices A, B, The Constitution Amendment, 1867 (Reserve #7)
Galvin, "The United Constitutional Vision of Meach Lake" (Reserve #8)
Blakie and McAlpine, (Reserve #21)
Paul Quebecois, "Quebec in a New World" (Reserve #22)
- e) Re-thinking Federalism in the Canadian Context
Other readings, TBA

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 13
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)
- d) Revisionist and Applied Democratic Ideologies: Reform Liberalism and Neo Conservatism
McCullough, pp. 47-52, 88-108 (reserve book)
- e) Marxism and its future
Gorbachev, *Egistrakia*, chapter 1 (Reserve #3)
- f) Peril and Emerging Ideologies: Fundamentalism, Feminism, Environmentalism, and the "New politics".
McCullough, pp. 227-234, 243-253, 272-280, 288-290 (Reserve Book)
DF chapter 14
Ingelhart, "Post-Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve #4)
- g) Summary, Left, Right and Centre
DF, chapter 15
Lambert et al. "In Search of Left/Right ..." (Reserve #1a)

UNIT V: GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES

- a) The Executive
Landes, chapter 4
DF, chapter 29
Franko, "Borrowing From The United States..." (Reserve #10)
- b) The Legislative Branch
Landes, chapter 6
DF, chapter 28
Lemco and Regenstreif, "Let the Senate Be..." (Reserve #11)
Kutnick, "Prairie Fire..." (Reserve #12)
- c) The Civil Service
Landes, chapter 5
DF, chapter 30
- d) The Judiciary
Landes, chapter 7
DF, chapter 31
Russell, "The Effect of a Charter ..." (Reserve #13)

6

4 weeks

UNIT VI: POLITICAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOUR

- a) Political Culture
DF, chapter 22, 23 (re-read 22)
Landes, chapter 8
- b) Pressure Groups
Landes, chapter 12
DF, chapter 24
Pross, "Pressure Groups..." (Reserve #14)
- c) Political Parties
DF, chapter 26
Low, "The Mythology of the American Two-Party System" (Reserve #15)
Landes, chapter 11

4 weeks

- d) Elections and Electoral Systems
Landes, chapter 9, 10
DF, chapter 27
Glasz et al., "Voter Turnout..." (Reserve #6)

UNIT VII: PUBLIC POLICY

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

1 week

UNIT IX: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- a) Overview
DF, chapter 8
- b) Change and Stability in the International System
Readings TBA

1 week

UNIT X: ISSUES AND TRENDS

- a) Quebec and Canada in the 1990s
- b) Native Self Government
- c) Other Issues

2 weeks

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. Readings are TBA