

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1000 [UT (6)]

OCT 22 1998

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1998 - 1999 Y
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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 1997-98 (the Quebec issue, 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 7, 1998
First Term Paper	15%	Due November 21, 1998
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week
Library Assignment 2	5%	Due February 1, 1999
Second Term Paper	15%	Due March 17, 1999
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:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage Equivalent</u>
Excellent	9	90%-100%
	8	80%- 89%
	7	72%- 79%
Good	6	65%- 71%
	5	57%- 64%
Pass	4	50%- 56%
	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).

A NOTE on E-MAil and INTERNET

Students will be expected to be connected to internet through, at minimum the college computer labs and to maintain and regularly check their e-mail accounts.

TEXTS

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

Mark O. Dickerson and Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics (4th OR 5th edition) (DF4 and DF5 on the reading list)

Roger Gibbins and Loleen Youngman, Mindsapes: Political Ideologies Towards the 21st Century. (GY on the readings list)

James John Guy, People, Politics, Government: A Canadian Perspective. (Scarborough: Prentice Hall, 1998). (GUY on the readings list)

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.

Please note that DF4 refers to the 4th edition of Dickerson and Flanagan and DF5 to the fifth edition. Either edition is acceptable.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

1 week

a) Course Outline and Requirements

b) Defining Political Science

DF, Preface and Introduction
GUY chapters 1 and 2

c) Approaches to Political Science

UNIT II: BASIC CONCEPTS

2 weeks

a) Society, Government, and Politics

DF4, chapter 1
DF5, chapter 1,2
GUY chapter 4 and 5

b) The Growth and Roles of Government

c) Sovereignty, Nation, and State

DF4, chapters 4, 5
DF5, chapters 5, 6

d) Power, Legitimacy, Authority

DF4, chapters 2, 3
DF5, chapters 3, 4

e) Constitutionalism, Law, and Rule of Law

Guy chapter 10
DF4, chapters 6, 7
DF5, chapters 7, 8

UNIT III: POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

4 weeks

a) The Meaning of Ideology

DF4, chapter 9
 DF5, chapter 10
 GY ch. 1
 GUY chapter 3

b) Fascism and National Socialism

DF4, chapter 13
 DF5, chapter 14
 GY ch. 9

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

DF4, chapters 10, 11, 12
 DF5, chapters 11, 12, 13
 GY ch. 2,3,4

d) Nationalism

GY ch. 7

e) Populism

GY ch. 8

f) Partial and Emerging Ideologies: Fundamentalism, Feminism, Environmentalism, and the "new politics".

GY ch 5, 6, 9
 DF4 chapter 14
 DF5 chapter 15
 Inglehart, "Post-Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve # 4)

g) Summary, Left, Right and Centre

DF4, chapter 15
 DF5 chapter 16
 GY ch. 11,12

UNIT IV: BASIC FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

2 weeks

a) Authoritarian and Totalitarian Forms

DF4, chapters 16, 18, 19
 DF5 chapters 17, 19, 20

b) Liberal Democracy

DF4, chapter 17

DF5 chapter 18

c) Liberal Democratic Variants: Democratic Elitism and Pluralism

DF4, chapter 22

DF5 chapter 18, 23

Dye & Ziegler, The Irony of Democracy, chapter 1
(Reserve #5)

UNIT V: CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

4 weeks

a) Conceptual Overview

DF4, chapters 20, 21

DF5 chapters 21, 22

b) Federalism

c) The U.S. Constitution

The Constitution of the United States (Reserve #6)

d) Canadian Constitutional Development

DF4, DF5, Appendices A, B The Constitutions Amendment, 1987 (Reserve #7)

Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech
Lake" (Reserve #8)

Blaikie and McAlpine, (Reserve #21)

Parti Quebecois, "Quebec in a New World" (Reserve #22)

e) Re-thinking Federalism in the Canadian Context

Other readings, TBA

UNIT VI: GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES

4 weeks

a) The Executive

Guy chapters 5 6
 DF4, chapter 29
 DF5 chapter 30
 Franks, "Borrowing From The United States..." (Reserve #10)

b) The Legislative Branch

Guy chapter 7
 DF4, chapter 28
 DF5 chapter 29
 Lemco and Regenstreif, "Let the Senate Be..." (Reserve #11)
 Kaduck, "Prairie Fire..." (Reserve #12)

c) The Civil Service

Guy chapter 8
 DF4, chapter 30
 DF5 chapter 31

d) The Judiciary

Guy chapter 9
 DF4, chapter 31
 DF5 chapter 32
 Russell, "The Effect of a Charter ..." (Reserve #13)

UNIT VII: POLITICAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOUR

4 weeks

a) Political Culture

DF4, chapter 22,23 (re-read 22)
 DF5 chapters 23, 24

b) Pressure Groups

DF4, chapter 24
 DF5 chapter 25
 Pross, "Pressure Groups..." (Reserve #14)
 Guy chapter 11

c) Political Parties

DF4, chapter 25
 DF5 chapter 26
 Lowi, "The Mythology of the American Two-Party System" (Reserve #15)

Landes, chapter 9

d) Media

DFS chapter 27 (Note a copy is also on reserve for those with DF4)

- d) Elections and Electoral Systems
 DF4, chapter 27
 DF5 chapter 28
 Glass et.al., "Voter Turnout..." (Reserve 16)
 Guy chapter 12

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

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

UNIT IX: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

1 week

a) Overview

- DF4, chapter 8
 DF5 chapter 9
 Guy chapters 13, 14, 15

b) Change and Stability in the International System

- Guy chapter 16
 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. Readings are TBA