

SEP. 11 2001

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Political Science 1000
INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
University Transfer
September 2000 - April 2002

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD
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Office hours: (fall term)
Mon., Thurs. 2:00-3:30

Room:
Time: T, Th. 4-5:20

College Calendar course description:

This course provides an introduction to the institutions, processes and problems of politics emphasizing Canadian and other democratic governments and including a discussion of power and influence, ideologies, democracy, constitutions, federalism, civil liberties, public opinion, voting behaviour, political parties and interest groups. Recommended but not required for all senior political science courses.

Course description 2001-2002:

How differently do people with different ideological perspectives see the political world? Why do liberals, socialists, conservatives, populists and others see the world as they do? How does government work? What is the best form of government? How do news media affect people's perceptions of politics?

We will address these and other questions before turning our attention to issues of nationhood. How can and should aspirations of aboriginal peoples, Quebecois, Palestinians, Israelis and others be fulfilled?

The final part of the course will deal with international issues such as immigration, humanitarian intervention, global warming, and World Trade.

Course objectives:

This course is designed to introduce you to the discipline of Political Science and some of its areas of study. It is intended to provide you with a basic knowledge of key ideas and concepts, and familiarize you with institutions and political processes. It should encourage you to think about a number of issues clearly and reflectively. It should also encourage you to appreciate the value of a spirit of inquiry into the political world around us.

PLEASE NOTE: Details of this course outline are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation	10%
First assignment.....	5%
Four exams (2 midterm, 2 end of term)...	60% (4 X 15%)
First essay	10%
Second essay	15%

Required texts:

1. Mark Dickerson & Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach. Scarborough, Ontario: ITP Nelson, 1998.
2. Political Science 1000 course package.
3. To be announced.

Topics

I. Introduction.

- A. What is politics?
- B. What is Political Science? Related employment opportunities.

II. Political Ideologies

- A. Political Ideologies
- B. Liberalism
- C. Conservatism
- D. Socialism and Communism
- E. Anarchism
- F. Populism
- G. Feminism
- H. Postmodernism

III. Institutions and Political Processes

- A. Political Culture
- B. Parliamentary vs. presidential systems
- C. Executives
- D. Bureaucracies
- E. Legislatures or Representative Assemblies
- F. Courts and Rights
- G. Political parties
- H. Interest or Pressure groups
- I. Elections and Electoral systems
- J. Local governments

IV. Democratic and other forms of Government

- A. Classifications of government
- B. Democracy. Democratic constitutions. Direct Democracy.
- C. Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism
- D. National Security Agencies
- E. News Media

Note: Sections V & VI are subject to change depending upon book selection.

- V. **Accommodating ethnic and national identities and aspirations**
 - A. Sovereignty and sovereignty options - unitary, federal and confederal arrangements
 - B. Nationalism and national self-determination.
 - C. Case studies: Aboriginal peoples. Quebecois. Israelis and Palestinians. Others.

- VI. **International political issues**
 - A. Immigration: Immigrants and Refugees
 - B. Human Rights: Humanitarian Intervention. International Criminal Court. Sanctions.
 - C. Peacekeeping
 - D. Global Warming and the natural environment
 - E. Free Trade and World Trade

READINGS

I. Introduction.

- A. What is politics?
 - D&F, ch. 2 & 3

- B. What is Political Science? Related employment opportunities.
 - D&F, ch. 1
 - James John Guy, "What is Political Science?" pp. 47-63, 67-74

II. Political Ideologies

- A. Political Ideologies
 - D&F, ch. 10

- B. Liberalism
 - D&F, ch. 11

- C. Conservatism
 - D&F, ch. 12

- D. Socialism and Communism
 - D&F, ch. 13

- E. Anarchism

- F. Populism
 - Roger Gibbins and Loleen Youngman, with T.H. Kamena, "Populism: Ideology or Methodology?" pp. 196-201

- G. Feminism
 - D&F, ch. 15, pp. 183-95
 - Linda Trimble, "The Politics of Feminism: An Introduction," pp. 92-103

- H. Postmodernism
 - TBA

III. Institutions and Political Processes

A. Political Culture

- D&F, ch. 23

B. Parliamentary vs. presidential systems

- D&F, ch. 21

C. Executives

- D&F, ch. 30

D. Bureaucracies

- D&F, ch. 31

E. Legislatures or Representative Assemblies

- D&F, ch. 29

F. Courts and Rights

- D&F, ch. 32

- F.L. Morton, "Courts," pp. 342-59

G. Political parties

- D&F, ch. 26

H. Interest or Pressure groups

- D&F, ch. 25

I. Elections and Electoral systems

- D&F, ch. 28

J. Local governments

- C. Richard Tindal, A Citizen's Guide to Government, pp. 25-9, 179-84, 186-91.

IV. Democratic and other forms of Government

A. Classifications of government

- D&F, ch. 4 and ch. 17

B. Democracy. Democratic constitutions. Direct Democracy.

- D&F, ch. 18

- Charlton & Barker, Issue 18, "Do Referendums Enrich Democracy?" pp. 407-27

C. Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism

- D&F, ch. 19 & 20

D. National Security Agencies

- Reg Whitaker, "Security and Intelligence in a Cold Climate," pp. 409-41

E. News Media

- Neil Postman, "The Peek-a-Boo World," pp. 64-80

- Robert Hackett, "News Media's Influence on Canadian Party Politics," pp. 381-97

Note: Sections V & VI are subject to change depending upon book selection.

V. Accommodating ethnic and national identities and aspirations

A. Sovereignty and sovereignty options - unitary, federal and confederal arrangements

- D&F, ch. 5 and ch. 22

B. Nationalism and national self-determination.

- D&F, ch. 6, pp. 48-55 and ch. 14

C. Case studies: Aboriginal peoples. Quebecois. Israelis and Palestinians. Others.

- Robert & Doreen Jackson, "Nationalism and Regionalism: Quebec..." pp. 224-49
- Ovide Mercredi & Mary Ellen Turpel, "Self-Government as a Way to Heal," pp. 107-31

VI. International political issues

A. Immigration: Immigrants and Refugees

- Andrew Coyne & G.E. Dirks, "Should States Pursue an Open Border Policy toward Migrants?" pp. 453-78

B. Human Rights: Humanitarian Intervention. International Criminal Court. Sanctions.

- TBA

C. Peacekeeping

- TBA

D. Global Warming and the natural environment

- D&F, ch. 15, pp. 195-9
- TBA

E. Free Trade and World Trade

- TBA