



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2019

PO1010 (A2): INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL STUDIES: IDEAS & FORMS OF GOVERNMENT - 3 (3-0-0) 45 HOURS FOR 15 WEEKS

INSTRUCTOR: Dawn Moffat McMaster **PHONE:** 780-539-2763
OFFICE: C415 **E-MAIL:** dmcmaster@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am, or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to key political concepts such as power, authority, order, equality, freedom and justice. These concepts are examined as they are used by different ideologies including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, anarchism, feminism, postmodernism, and religious fundamentalism. Political ideas and practices are also examined in the context of democratic, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of government. The role of the news media under different kinds of regime may also be considered.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci. Power, Politics, and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science, 5th edition: Toronto. Pearson Canada, 2018.
- Internet & database readings as listed in the syllabus appendix.
- Readings assigned by instructor in class.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Discussion

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to introduce you to the political world and the academic study of it. It is intended to:

- encourage you to think about the rights and obligations of citizens, the roles of law and government, the requirements of democracy, and the nature of different forms of government;

- provide you with a basic knowledge of key political ideas and concepts, and of the major political ideologies;
- demonstrate the value of thinking clearly and systematically about the political world and how it affects your daily life;
- prepare you for further studies in politics at the postsecondary level.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of political concepts and processes; and a familiarity with political ideologies and their real-life applications.
- demonstrate engagement in formal and informal politics through discussion of current events
- assess original and secondary sources of argumentation and evidence, both scholarly and popular, and apply findings to new situations.
- demonstrate effective essay writing skills, through the evaluation of evidence and coherent synthesis of arguments.
- apply these specific skills to further academic study of politics.

TRANSFERABILITY: AU, UA, UC, UL, MU, KUC

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

EVALUATIONS:

Participation	10%
Paper Proposal.....	15%
Term Paper.....	30%
Midterm Exam.....	15%
Final Exam.....	30%

Participation: You will be required to complete 5 in-class quizzes or take-home assignments at random throughout the semester. Each assignment will be worth 2% the participation grade.

Term Paper: The **Paper Proposal** assignment will include an annotated bibliography & outline, and will assist you in completing your final paper. You will receive a handout in class detailing the expectations for each assignment. Your final paper will be an 8 – 10 page persuasive essay on a topic within the broad category of political themes and issues. I will also supply you with a handout in class which will outline in greater detail what I expect from this paper.

Exams: Exams will consist of questions which require demonstration of knowledge of specific concepts and theories (multiple choice, matching questions, and short-response questions), as well as synthesis of that knowledge into original responses (essay-style questions). The mid-term will deal with material covered to date, while the final exam will be cumulative. Both exams will be written online in a computer lab, although the option for hand-writing is also available.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Schedule of Lectures & Readings (subject to alteration, upon consent of instructor and students)	
Week 1 (Sept. 4 - 6)	Lecture 1: Introduction to the Study of Political Science
Week 2 (Sept. 9 – 13)	Lecture 2: Power & the Public Good Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 1 • (M - Moodle Reading) Janine Brodie. "Ch. 1: Power and Politics." Frm. <u>Critical Concepts: an introduction to politics, 5th ed.</u>. Eds. Janine Brodie, Malinda Smith & Sandra Rein. P. 3 – 16.
Week 3 (Sept. 16 – 20)	Lecture 3: Citizenship and the State Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 2 • (M) Christina Gabriel. "Ch. 12: Citizens & Citizenship." Frm. <u>Critical Concepts: an introduction to politics, 4th ed.</u> Eds. Janine Brodie & Sandra Rein. P. 157 – 169.
Week 4 (Sept. 23 – 27)	Lecture 4: Traditional Ideologies Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 3 • (M) Telford, Hamish. "Ch. 2: The Political Culture of Canada." Frm. <u>Rules of the Game: An Introduction to Canadian Politics.</u> P. 13 – 29
Week 5 (Sept. 30 – Oct. 4)	Traditional Ideologies (con't) **Paper Proposal Due – Wed., Oct. 2**
Week 6 (Oct. 7 – 11)	<i>MON., OCT. 7: THANKSGIVING DAY – NO CLASS</i> Lecture 5: Contemporary Ideologies Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 4
Week 7 (Oct. 14 – 18)	Contemporary Ideologies (con't)
Week 8 (Oct. 21 – 25)	Contemporary Ideologies (con't) **Midterm Exam – Wed., Oct. 23**
Week 9 (Oct. 28 – Nov. 1)	Lecture 6: Democratic and Authoritarian Systems Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 10 & 11

Week 10 (Nov. 5 – 9)	Democratic and Authoritarian Systems (cont.) **Term Paper Due – Fri., Nov. 15**
Week 11 (Nov. 11 – 15)	<i>NOV. 11 – 12: FALL BREAK</i> Democratic and Authoritarian Systems (cont.)
Week 12 (Nov. 18 – 22)	Lecture 8: Politics of Conflict Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 9
Week 13 (Nov. 25 – 29)	Lecture 9: Politics at the Global Level Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 17 & 18
Week 14 (Dec. 3 – 6)	Politics at the Global Level (cont.)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Full participation in class will require demonstration that you have completed the assigned readings, as well as an active role in group work and class discussions.

Punctual submission of assignments:

- An electronic copy is due by midnight on the due date. It should be submitted via Moodle, and should be formatted as a PDF. If you do not know how to save a document as a PDF, please contact me.
- Please title your paper as follows: LASTNAMEFirstname-Assignment-PO1010F2019. (Ex. Jane Smith’s paper should be saved as SMITHJane-TermPaper- PO1010F2019.)
- Late assignments will be docked 3% (i.e. an A becomes an A-) for each day they are late. If extenuating circumstances necessitate an extension on an assignment, you are required to speak with me **AHEAD OF TIME**, and appropriate paperwork (i.e. a medical note) may be required. Also, please note that you are required to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. You should take this into account when making any travel plans.

Classroom Conduct:

GPRC is committed to promote an environment free of harassment or discrimination where respect will be given to ethnic, cultural, religious, and lifestyle diversity, and expects individuals will conduct

themselves with respect for one another. This means your behavior should exhibit respect for yourselves, each other, the instructor, and the course material. As such:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared.
- Laptops and cellphones are permitted in class, with a few caveats.
 - Cellphones should be on silent or vibrate mode, and I expect you wait to check calls or messages until after class. If an emergency requires otherwise, I expect you to advise me at the beginning of class.
 - Laptops are to be used for class work ONLY. Students carrying out other activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home.
- Working on assignments for other courses is not permitted. Students doing so will be asked to leave the class.
- I encourage an atmosphere of positive and constructive debate. Expressing criticism or annoyance with a view expressed by another person, either through a comment, audible noise, facial expression or body language, is not acceptable, unless you are prepared to debate your position openly & respectfully in class.
- Regular attendance. If you know you are going to be absent from class, I expect you to contact me prior to class with a reason. Students who miss more than 1/3 of classes (9 or more) may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in GPRC's Examination Policy (available at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/).

For information on key dates and other important matters, please refer to the GPRC Calendar, available www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>