



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2021

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

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

INSTRUCTOR: Dawn Moffat McMaster **PHONE:** 780-539-2763
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment **E-MAIL:** dmcmaster@gprc.ab.ca
CLASS TIME: Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:50 pm

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 regimes 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 – REVEL Instant Access, 6th edition: Toronto. Pearson Canada, 2021.
- Internet & database readings as listed in the syllabus appendix.
- Readings assigned by instructor in class.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technical support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

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: Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for information on transferability to other Alberta institutions. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be accepted 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% | Exams (2 exams, 20% ea)..... | 40% |
| Chapter Quizzes | 20% | Term Paper | 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.

Chapter Quizzes: You will complete a quiz for each of the assigned chapters from the text. The quiz must be completed by midnight of the day before class. (If the chapter/lecture spans two weeks, the quiz is due before the second of the two classes.)

Exams: Exams will be open book and will consist of questions which require a demonstration of knowledge of specific concepts and theories presented in the course, as well as synthesis of that knowledge into long form, written responses. Each exam will deal with material covered to date. Sample questions will be provided prior to the exam date.

Term Paper: Your final paper will be a 10 – 12 page persuasive essay on a topic within the broad category of political themes and issues. It will require demonstration of knowledge of specific concepts and theories presented in the course, as well as synthesis of that knowledge into a coherent paper. If you choose, you may submit a **Paper Proposal** to prepare for writing the paper. This assignment will include an annotated bibliography and outline and will assist you in completing your final paper. If you choose to submit a paper proposal, this will be worth 1/3 of the grade of your paper (10 of 30%).

More detailed information on all assignments will be distributed throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

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 | 93 - 100 | | C+ | 2.3 | 67 - 69 |
| A | 4.0 | 87 - 92 | | C | 2.0 | 63 - 66 |
| A- | 3.7 | 80 - 86 | | 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) | |
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| Week 1 (Sept. 2) | Lecture 1: Introduction to the Study of Political Science |
| Week 2 (Sept. 9) | Lecture 2: Power & the Public Good Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 1 • (D2L) 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) | Lecture 3: Citizenship and the State Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, C & C Text, Ch. 2 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (D2L) 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) | <p>Lecture 4: Traditional Ideologies</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M, C & C Text, Ch. 3 (D2L) 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) | Traditional Ideologies (con't) |
| Week 6 (Oct. 7) | Exam #1 |
| (Oct. 14) | <i>FALL BREAK – NO CLASS</i> |
| Week 7 (Oct. 21) | <p>Lecture 5: Contemporary Ideologies</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M, C & C Text, Ch. 4 (D2L) Johnson, Allan G. "Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them, or an Us." Frm. <u>The Gender Knot: Unravelling Our Patriarchal Legacy.</u> P. 27 – 50. |
| Week 8 (Oct. 28) | Contemporary Ideologies (cont.) |
| Week 9 (Nov. 4) | <p>Lecture 6: Democratic and Authoritarian Systems</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M, C & C Text, Ch. 10 & 11 <p>**Paper Proposal Due – Fri., Nov. 5**</p> |
| Week 10 (Nov.11) | <i>Remembrance Day – NO CLASS</i> |
| Week 11 (Nov. 18) | Lecture 6: Democratic and Authoritarian Systems (cont.) |
| Week 12 (Nov. 25) | <p>Lecture 7: Politics of Conflict</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M, C & C Text, Ch. 9 |
| Week 13 (Dec. 2) | Exam #2 |

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Punctual submission of assignments:

- An electronic copy is due by midnight on the due date. It should be submitted via Brightspace, 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-PO1010F2021. (Ex. Jane Smith's paper should be saved as SMITHJane-TermPaper- PO1010F2021.)
- 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 the due date of the final paper will be determined by the College. You should take this into account when making plans around the end of the semester.

Classroom Conduct:

GPRC is committed to promoting 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 behaviour should exhibit respect for yourselves, each other, the instructor, and the course material. As such:

- Students are expected to log in to Zoom on time and prepared, with cameras on and microphones muted. A camera AND mic is mandatory - visibility is accountability! If you are concerned with privacy in your environment, please feel free to use a virtual background (instructions are available here: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/210707503-Virtual-Background#h_01ED77TMFJXBJGY9KKJBC916FK).
- Be prepared to communicate both through your mic and via chat. For example, if you need to step away for a moment, please advise me via chat BEFORE turning your camera off. Please note, the chat feature in zoom is to be limited to questions to the instructor or supportive comments to students ONLY; it is NOT a place to have a general text chat.
- Please use the emojis available in Zoom (Hand up, thumbs up, etc. ...). We will review how to use these in our first class.
- I encourage an atmosphere of positive and constructive debate, both for in-person communication and digital communication of any kind. Expressions of disagreement with ideas are acceptable; personal attacks are not. Engaging with a view expressed by another person, through written or verbal comments, audible noises, facial expressions 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 Student

Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.