

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2023**

**PO1010(A2): Introduction to Political Studies, Ideas and Forms of Government – 3 (3-0-0) 45  
Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Ruth Lambert	<b>PHONE:</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>OFFICE:</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	tlambert@nwpolytech.ca
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Fridays 12pm-1pm or by appointment. Please send me an email to make an 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 employed 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:** There is no textbook required for this course. Required readings will be posted on myClass.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** On-Campus, class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00-11:20am in B202.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the different ideological dimensions of politics and be able to explain how ideology influences different views.
- Be able to differentiate between democratic and non-democratic rule by identifying regime characteristics and assessing the operation of different elements within political systems.
- Understand the similarities and differences in domestic and global governance.
- Be able to engage in dialogue about political issues using data and evidence.
- Think critically about political issues and support arguments with evidence.
- Identify and cite information in text and other sources.

## TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. 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 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:

Assignment	Weight	Due date:
Reading response x 2	2 x 5% = 10%	September 22 <sup>nd</sup> and October 6 <sup>th</sup> , by 11:59pm
Midterm test	20 %	November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , in class
Short essay assignment	20 %	November 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59pm
Policy assignment: In class deliberations Final written component	10% 10% = 20%	In class December 5 <sup>th</sup> and December 7 <sup>th</sup> Final written component due December 8 <sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm
Final exam	30%	Scheduled by registrar during the final exam period.

## Assignment information:

- Detailed information for each assignment will be available on myClass and covered during lectures prior to the due date.
- Please contact me as early as you can if you are struggling with an assignment or think you might need an extension. Except in the case of emergency, please contact me at least 24 hours prior to an assignment deadline to discuss an extension.
- Tests/exams will be closed book (you can expect a combination of question types).
- The late penalty for written assignments is 3% a day.

## 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	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	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:

Week 1	September 5 & 7	introduction to the course and field
Week 2	September 12 & 14	political concepts: power, authority, justice, freedom
Week 3	September 19 & 21	democracy <b>**reading response assignment due September 22<sup>nd</sup> by 11:59pm**</b>
Week 4	September 26 & 28	authoritarianism
Week 5	October 3 & 5	analyzing and understanding political systems <b>**reading response assignment due October 6<sup>th</sup>, by 11:59pm**</b>
Week 6	October 10 & 12	the political spectrum: -isms – their values and shortcomings
Week 7	October 17 & 19	ideologies continued
Week 8	October 24 & 26	extremism
Week 9	October 31 & Nov. 2	<b>**review and midterm test in class on November 2**</b>
Week 10	November 7 & 9	social movements and political change
Week 11	November 14 & 17	reading week – no class
Week 12	November 21 & 23	conflict <b>** essay due Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**</b>
Week 13	November 28 & 30	global issues and governance (November 30 <sup>th</sup> , last day to withdraw)
Week 14	December 5 & 7	policy assignment discussions and debates <b>** policy assignment due December 8<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**</b>
Week 15	December 12	review

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Respectful participation:** One of the key components of learning in political science is to engage with ideas that may differ from your own. We have ideas about politics because politics is all around us. We may respond quickly to information that opposes our own ideas, but one purpose of learning in this course is to reflect on ideas and better understand opposing ideas. Respectful dialogue with classmates is required. We will treat one another with respect. Expectations around participation will be covered during the first class and re-visited throughout the term as necessary. If you have any concerns about participation, please contact me by email or in-person.

**Attendance:** Try to attend class regularly. Lecture time is a time to prod at information, ask questions and develop information synthesis skills. We will also use some lecture time to work through issues on assignments.

**Preparation:** Please try to come to class prepared to engage with the material and ask questions or offer analysis on the topics we are discussing. Throughout the semester, I want to see you engaging with the materials with your peers. By coming to class having read the readings or having thought about how the readings apply to current events, you will demonstrate how information can be used to support arguments and policy positions.

**Assignment preparation:** Please see below for NWP's statement on academic misconduct. In PO 1010, we will review these statements together as you are preparing your assignments so that you can ask questions and seek clarification. Plagiarism or presenting others' work (including AI) as your own will not be tolerated.

**Assignment deadlines:** In general, you are expected to submit your assignments on time as per the syllabus. It is your responsibility to manage your time to meet these deadlines. The deadlines ensure work is complete so I can provide feedback to help prepare you for the assignments that follow. However, if you are struggling to meet a deadline, please contact me to discuss an extension, *prior to the deadline*. Please note that extensions are not guaranteed.

**Final exam:** The final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. Please do not make plans for the end of the semester that will prevent you from writing the exam.

Recording or photographing content is not allowed, unless permission has been granted by the instructor.

### **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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