



## **DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

### **COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015**

#### **PO 1010 (A2/VC) INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL STUDIES IDEAS & FORMS OF GOVERNMENT - 3 (3-0-0) 45 HOURS**

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

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> edition: Toronto. Pearson Canada, 2015.
- Internet & database readings as listed in the syllabus appendix.
- Readings assigned by instructor in class.

**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.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 credits / 3 hours per week

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture and Discussion

**OBJECTIVES:** This course, along with Political Studies 1020, is designed to introduce you to the political world and the academic study of it. PO1010 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:** This course has university transferability to Athabasca University, Grant McEwan University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. For complete information, consult the Alberta Transfer Guide ([www.transferalberta.ca](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**

## GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A <sup>+</sup>	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C <sup>-</sup>	1.7	60 – 62	
D <sup>+</sup>	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

## EVALUATIONS:

Participation ..... 10%  
 Political Writing Assignment ..... 5%  
 Bibliography & Outline ..... 10%  
 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 **Political Writing Assignment**, and the **Annotated Bibliography & Outline** are assignments which 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 a 10 - 12 page persuasive essay on a topic within the broad category of political themes and issues.

**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.

### **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-PO1010F2015. (Ex. Jane Smith's paper should be saved as SMITHJane-TermPaper- PO1010F2015.)
- 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 has 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 ([www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://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/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/).

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Plagiarism and/or cheating can result in serious consequences (i.e. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: A Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty) and/or suspension or expulsion from the College). If I suspect plagiarism on assignments, I reserve the right to submit these to an online plagiarism detection service, as specified in Section 1.4 of the GPRC Policy on Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-academic ([https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms\\_documents/Student\\_Misconduct.pdf](https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf)).

It is your responsibility to ensure that you fully understand what constitutes plagiarism and/or cheating. If you have any question as to what these acts involve, please refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-academic at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/).

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

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

<b>Schedule of Lectures &amp; Readings</b> (subject to alteration, upon consent of instructor and students)	
Week 1	Lecture 1: Introduction to the Study of Political Science
Week 2	<i>MON., SEPT. 7: LABOUR DAY – NO CLASS</i> Introduction (con't)
Week 3	<u>Section I: Basic Political Vocabulary</u> Lecture 2: Power, Legitimacy & Authority Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 1</li> </ul>
Week 4	Lecture 3: The Nation-State, Sovereignty & Citizenship Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 2</li> <li>• (M - Moodle Reading) Christina Gabriel. "Ch. 12: Citizens &amp; Citizenship." Frm. <u>Critical Concepts: an introduction to politics, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</u> Eds. Janine Brodie &amp; Sandra Rein. P. 157 – 169.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Political Writing Assignment Due – Wed., Sept. 23**</b></p>
Week 5	<u>Section II: Political Thought</u> Lecture 4: Traditional Ideologies Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 4</li> <li>• (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</li> </ul>
Week 6	Traditional Ideologies (con't)
Week 7	<i>MON., OCT. 12: THANKSGIVING DAY – NO CLASS</i> <p><b>**Midterm Exam – Wed., Oct. 14**</b></p>
Week 8	Lecture 5: Contemporary Ideologies Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 5</li> <li>• (M) Linda Trimble. "The Politics of Feminism: An Introduction." Frm. <u>Braving the New World: Readings in Contemporary Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.</u>, Eds. Thomas Bateman &amp; Roger Epp.</li> <li>• (M) Adkin, Laurie E. "Ch. 18: Environmental Politics." Frm. <u>Critical Concepts: an introduction to politics, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</u> P. 237 – 249</li> </ul>

Week 9	<p>Contemporary Ideologies (con't)</p> <p><b>**Bibliography &amp; Outline Due – Wed., Oct. 28**</b></p>
Week 10	<p><u>Section III: Forms of Government</u></p> <p>Lecture 6: Democracies</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 3, Ch. 11 p. 262-71</li> </ul>
Week 11	<p><i>WED - FRI., NOV. 11 - 13: FALL BREAK – NO CLASS</i></p> <p>Lecture 5: Classifications of Government</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 11, Ch. 14 p. 336 – 46 &amp; Ch. 15 p. 362 - 4, 373 – 83.</li> </ul>
Week 12	Classifications of Government (cont.)
Week 13	<p>Lecture 8: Politics of Conflict</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 10</li> </ul> <p><b>**Term Paper Due – Mon., Nov. 23**</b></p>
Week 14	<p>Lecture 9: Politics at the Global Level</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M, C &amp; C Text, Ch. 18</li> </ul>
Week 15	REVIEW CLASS