

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE**

Political Science 1010  
**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL STUDIES:**  
**Ideas and Forms of Government**  
University Transfer  
**Fall 2003**

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD                   **Room:** E306A  
**Telephone:** 539-2996                   **Time:** Mon./Wed. 2:30-3:50 p.m.  
**e-mail:** tenders@gprc.ab.ca  
**Office:** C303  
**Office hours:** Mon. 1-2 p.m.; Thurs. 10-11 a.m. or by appointment

College Calendar course 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.

Course 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:

1. Provide you with a basic knowledge of key political ideas and concepts, and the main political ideologies;
2. Encourage you to think about the role of law and government, the nature of different forms of government, and the requirements of democracy; and
3. Also encourage you to appreciate the value of thinking clearly and systematically about the political world around us; and
4. Prepare you for further studies in politics at the postsecondary level.

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

Course requirements:

First exam.....	35%
Term paper .....	30%
Final exam .....	35%

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Required texts:

1. Mark Dickerson & Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach, 6th edition. Scarborough, Ontario: ITP Nelson, 2002.
2. Web CT readings.
3. Reserve readings.

**Note:** You may use the 5th edition of Dickerson and Flanagan, but you will have to follow different pagination and obtain and read some material added to the 6th edition.

Topics

- I. **Introduction.**
  - A. What is politics? Politics and law. Politics and morality. Political power and resources.
  - B. What is Political Science? Related employment opportunities.
- II. **The basis for political rule.**
  - A. Legitimacy and authority.
  - B. Law and constitutionalism.
- III. **Democratic and other forms of Government**
  - A. Classifications of government
  - B. Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism
  - C. Democracy. Democratic constitutions. Direct Democracy.
  - D. News Media and Democracy.
- IV. **Political Ideologies**
  - A. Political Ideologies. Components. Key concepts such as order, equality, freedom and justice.
  - B. Liberalism.
  - C. Conservatism.
  - D. Populism.
  - E. Socialism and Communism.
  - F. Anarchism.
  - G. Feminism.
  - H. Postmodernism.
  - I. Religious Fundamentalism.

# PO1010 Readings Fall 2003

(Please note that there will be some short readings and handouts in addition to those on this list. Also - R = library reserve reading)

## I. **Introduction.**

- A. What is politics? Politics and law. Politics and morality. Political power and resources.
  - D&F ch. 1; ch. 2, pp. 30-33 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch 2; ch. 3, pp. 24-7)
- B. What is Political Science? Related employment opportunities.
  - D&F "Introduction" (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 1)

## II. **The basis for political rule.**

- A. Legitimacy and authority.
  - D&F ch. 2, pp. 33-43 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 3, pp. 27-37)
- B. Law and constitutionalism.
  - D&F ch. 6 & 7 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 7 & 8)
  - Plato, "Crito," at [www.philosophy.ucdavis.edu/phi001/crito.htm](http://www.philosophy.ucdavis.edu/phi001/crito.htm)
  - John Kilcullen, "Political Obligation," 2 pages at [www.humanities.mq.edu.au/Ockham/y67xan3.html](http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/Ockham/y67xan3.html)
  - (R) Jan Narveson, "Obeying the Law," pp. 259-67

## III. **Democratic and other forms of Government**

- A. Classifications of government
  - D&F ch. 16 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 17)
- B. Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism
  - D&F ch. 19 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 19 & 20)
- C. Democracy. Democratic constitutions. Direct Democracy.
  - D&F ch. 17 & 18 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 18)
  - (R) Brian Needham, "A Better Way to Vote,?" pp. 409-15 and Mark Charlton, "The Limits of Direct Democracy," pp. 416-25 and Introduction and Postscript in Charlton and Barker, Issue 18, "Do Referendums Enrich Democracy?" pp. 407-27
- D. News Media and Democracy.
  - D&F ch. 24 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 27)
  - (R) Neil Postman, "The Peek-a-Boo World," pp. 64-80
  - (R) Robert Hackett, "News Media's Influence on Canadian Party Politics," pp. 381-97
  - James Winter, "Democracy's oxygen: how can we resuscitate our news media & society," Briarpatch, Oct. 1996, pp. 35, 37-41 Access through CPIQ
  - Bill Peterson, "Convergence can be good, bad or ugly," Globe and Mail, 8 Aug. 2000, 2 pages at [www.friendscb.org/articles/GlobeandMail/globe000808.htm](http://www.friendscb.org/articles/GlobeandMail/globe000808.htm)

#### IV. Political Ideologies

- A. Political Ideologies. Components. Key concepts such as order, equality, freedom and justice.  
- D&F ch. 9 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 10)
- B. Liberalism.  
- D&F ch. 10 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 11)  
- (R) John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty," excerpts  
- (R) Madame Justice Bertha Wilson, Supreme Court of Canada, excerpt from 1988 judgment, Dr. Henry Morgentaler v. Her Majesty the Queen. Pages 46-53 in Cragg & Koggel text. Or go to [www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/pub/1988/voll/index.html](http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/pub/1988/voll/index.html) and begin p. 164 "The Charter is predicated..." and read through p. 183.
- C. Conservatism.  
- D&F ch. 11 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 12)  
- (R) Robert Bork, Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline, pp. 123-5, 139, 140-53  
- Kitty Clark, "Leo Strauss," Adbusters, Sept./Oct.03 3 pages at [www.adbusters.org/magazine/49/articles/leo\\_strauss/noflash.html](http://www.adbusters.org/magazine/49/articles/leo_strauss/noflash.html)  
- "Questions and Answers with Dinesh D'Souza," 4 pages at [www.enterstageright.com/archive/articles/0203/0203dsouzaint.txt](http://www.enterstageright.com/archive/articles/0203/0203dsouzaint.txt)
- D. Populism.  
- (handout) Roger Gibbins and Loleen Youngman, "Populism," pp. - "Populism," 3 pages at [www.geocities.com/reformedconservative/populism.html](http://www.geocities.com/reformedconservative/populism.html)  
- Brian Neve, "Ideologies: Populism," 8 pages at <http://staff.bath.ac.uk/hssbnp/populism.htm> (Unfortunately, this article has numerous typographical errors)
- E. Socialism and Communism.  
- D&F ch. 12 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 13)  
- Dave Holmes, "Crime and Punishment," 4 pages (large font) at [www.greenleft.org.au/back/1997/273/273p14.htm](http://www.greenleft.org.au/back/1997/273/273p14.htm)  
- Michael Parenti, "Reflections on the Politics of Culture," Monthly Review, February 1999, especially first section, & sections with headings "'The Commodification of Culture,'" "Supply Creates Demand," & "Imperfect Socialization," at [www.monthlyreview.org/299pare.htm](http://www.monthlyreview.org/299pare.htm)  
- (R) Murray Dobbin, The Myth of the Good Corporate Citizen, pp. 54-60, 285-7, 292-3, 294-7  
- (R) Andrew Heywood, "Welfare," pp. 244-55.
- F. Anarchism.  
- (R) Leon Baradat, "Anarchism," pp. 141-58  
- Tom Lane, "Noam Chomsky on Anarchism," 23 Dec. 1996, 5 pages at [www.zmag.org/chomsky/interviews/9612-anarchism.html](http://www.zmag.org/chomsky/interviews/9612-anarchism.html)  
- Franklin Foer, "Protest too much: meet the new Left: bold, fun, and stupid," New Republic, 1 May 2000, 6 pages. Access through CPIQ database.

- G. Feminism.
  - D&F, ch. 14 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. ch. 15, pp. 183-95)
  - (R) Linda Trimble, "The Politics of Feminism: An Introduction," pp. 92-103.
  
- H. Postmodernism.
  - Douglas Mann, "What is Postmodernism?" 3 pages at [www.hi.is/~mattsam/Kistan/postmodernismi/mann.htm](http://www.hi.is/~mattsam/Kistan/postmodernismi/mann.htm)
  - author unknown, "What's Wrong with Postmodernism?" 9 pages at [www.carleton.ca/~claughli/tutpost.htm](http://www.carleton.ca/~claughli/tutpost.htm)
  
- I. Religious Fundamentalism.
  - TBA