

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1030

"MODERN POLITICAL ISSUES"

Fall, 1992  
Instructor: S. A. McAlpine  
Office Hours: TBA

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the nature of law, the state, and citizenship with application to some contemporary controversies in politics drawing in particular on Canada's current political issues (eg. abortion, native rights, economic justice, environmentalism, and constitutional reform).

Beginning with the fundamental principles of liberal democratic citizenship, these principles will be examined with reference to the nature of law, fundamental rights, constitutionalism, and a brief survey of Canada's basic institutions of government. The second section of the course applies these principles to several specific issues of importance to Canadians including native self-government, economic and social justice, abortion, capital punishment, pornography and freedom of the press. Section III expands the topics and principles dealt with in sections I and II to a more global dimension and topics covered here include the nature of international law, terrorism, international human rights and environmentalism. Students are expected to keep up to date on current events since these will be discussed in the context of the course.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a sound theoretical understanding of the nature of law, democracy, and rights.
2. To be able to apply the above principles to contemporary political controversies in Canada and elsewhere.

Pre-requisite:

There is no pre-requisite for this course but this course is designed for students who want a single junior level course about politics. Students who intend to major in political science are advised to take Political Science 1000 (a full year introductory course).

Students must obtain the required texts for this course. However, many of the readings are NOT in the texts but are on reserve in the Learning Resources Centre (Library). Students should prepare for class by doing the readings in advance of the lectures.

1. Don Carmichael, Tom Focklington, and Greg Pyroz, Democracy and Rights in Canada. (Toronto: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991).
2. Mark Charlton and Paul Barker (eds.), Contemporary Political Issues. (Scarborough: Nelson, 1991).

#### Course Requirements:

A term paper is optional in this course. Students wishing to do a term paper MUST consult with the instructor and clear their topic prior to the first examination being written. There will be an examination at the end of each section of the course. The last (final) examination will be based on section III of the course but will also cover some material from the previous two sections of the outline.

	Term Paper Route	Examination Route	Date
Section I examination	25%	30%	TBA; In class
Section II examination	25%	30%	TBA; In class
Term Paper	25%	-	November 10
Final Examination	25%	40%	Scheduled by registrar
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

#### LECTURE OUTLINE AND READINGS LIST

Students are responsible for the required readings and class material. An effort should also be made to keep up to date on current events. Materials should be read before class. Reserve readings are numbered for your convenience. The McCullough text is on reserve as a book rather than in the course files. Lecture dates and topics are tentative and may be rescheduled or revised. Additional and/or replacement readings may, from time to time, be assigned.

#### SECTION I: BASIC PRINCIPLES AND BACKGROUND (4 weeks)

1. Introduction
2. Democracy and Rights  
Required: Carmichael et. al., Chapter 1.
3. Basic Governmental Institutions in Canada  
Required: E. Forsey, How We Are Governed, Reserve # 1)
4. Rights and Political Authority  
Required: Carmichael, Chapter 9.  
Required: Bertrand Russell, "Political Ideals," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophy. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1988), pp. 3-6. (Reserve Book)  
Suggested: Tom Campbell, "Introduction: Realizing Human Rights," in T. Campbell et. al. (eds.), Human Rights From Rhetoric to Reality. (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1986), pp. 1-14. (Reserve # 2)
5. Democracy and Political Participation  
Required: Carmichael, Chapter 3
6. Justice, Rights, and the Welfare State  
Required: Carmichael, chapter 4  
Required: John Rawls, "The Principles of Justice," and J.R. Lucas, "The Theory of Rawls," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophy. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1988), pp. 60-85. (Reserve Book)  
Required: Charlton and Barker, chapter 21  
Suggested: Charlton and Barker, chapter 23

7. Constitutional Rights, Democracy, and the Charter  
 Required: Constitution Act, 1982, Parts I and II (to be distributed in class)  
 Required: E. Knopf and P. L. Morton, Charter Politics, (Scarborough: Nelson, 1992), pp. 13-34. (Reserve # 4)  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, chapters 4 and 5  
 Suggested: Ian Greene, The Charter of Rights. (Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1989), pp. 208-238. (Reserve # 3)  
 Suggested: Keith Banting and Richard Simon, "Federalism, Democracy and the Constitution Act," in Keith Banting and Richard Simon (eds.), And No-One Cared: Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution Act, (Toronto: Methuen, 1984) (Reserve # 4)
8. Federalism and Rights: Meach Lake and Beyond  
 Required: The "Meach Lake Accord." (NOTE: this is to be distributed in class but will likely be replaced by whatever the current constitutional text at the time may be.)  
 Required: A. Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meach Lake," in K.S. Swinton and C. J. Rogerson (eds.), Competing Constitutional Visions: The Meach Lake Accord, (Toronto: Carswell, 1988), pp. 247-262. (Reserve # 5)  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, chapter 7  
 OTHER READINGS T.B.A.

## SECTION III. CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (4 weeks)

1. Liberty: J.S. Mill and Paternalism  
 Required: J. S. Mill, "Of Individuality, As One of the Elements of Well-Being," in H.B. McCollough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies, (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 38-40. (Reserve Book)  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, chapter 16  
 Suggested: D.M. Busak, "Paternalism and Autonomy," Philosophy and Public Affairs Vol. 10 No. 1 (Winter, 1981), pp. 27-46. (Reserve # 6)
2. Native Self-Government  
 Required: Carmichael, chapter 7.  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, Chapter 8  
 Suggested: W. Cragg, Contemporary Moral Issues, (2nd ed.), (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1987), pp. 341-399. (Reserve # 7)  
 Suggested: Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics, (2nd ed.), (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991) "Oka and Native Rights" (Reserve # 8)

3. Gender, Justice, and Democracy  
 Required: Carmichael, chapter 5  
 Required: Stephen Satra (ed.), Taking Sides (3rd. ed.), pp. 110-127 (Is Feminism a Harmful Ideology?) (Reserve # 9)
4. Capital Punishment  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, chapter 20
5. Abortion  
 Required: Carmichael, chapter 6.  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, chapter 6  
 Suggested: Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics, (2nd ed.), (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991). ("Canada's Abortion Saga") (Reserve # 10)
6. Pornography  
 Required: Carmichael, chapter 2  
 Required: Charlton and Barker, chapter 19  
 Suggested: Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics, (2nd ed.), (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991). ("Pornographic Policy"). (Reserve # 11)
7. Freedom of the Press  
 Required: Carmichael, chapter 8  
 Suggested: Charlton and Barker, chapter 17

## SECTION II: INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE DIMENSIONS (4 weeks)

1. International Law: Basic Principles  
 Required: C.C. Joyner, "The Reality and Relevance of International Law," in C.N. Kogler Jr. and E.S. Mittkopf (eds.), The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives, (2nd ed.), (New York: Random House, 1988), pp. 186-197. (Reserve # 12)  
 Required: Herbert M. Levine (ed.), World Politics Debated, (2nd ed.), (New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1986), pp. 363-369. ("Should a Country Adhere to International Law Even If Its Vital Interests May be Adversely Affected?") (Reserve # 13)
2. The Fight for a Homeland:  
 (suggested areas: Bosnia, Serbia, Palestine, etc. readings TBA)

## 3. International Terrorism

Required: Stephen Scalet (ed.), Taking Sides (3rd. ed.), Guilford, Ct.: Dushkin, 1992], pp. 334-353. (Reserve #14)

Suggested: Herbert M. Levine (ed.), World Politics Debated, 2nd ed., (New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1986), pp. 303-314. ("Is Terrorism an Effective Political Instrument?") (Reserve # 15)

## 4. Democracy And Authority In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

Required: B.A. Rustow, "Democracy: A Global Revolution?" Foreign Affairs Vol. 69 No. 4 (Fall, 1990), pp. 75-91. (Reserve # 16)

## 5. Human Rights and the World Order

Required: Stanley Hoffmann, "Duties Beyond Borders," in Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (eds.), International Politics, (3rd ed.), (New York: Harper-Collins, 1992, pp. 495-504. (Reserve # 17)

Suggested: Herbert M. Levine (ed.), World Politics Debated, 2nd ed., (New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1986), pp. 195-212. ("Should the Promotion of Human Rights be a Major Goal of Foreign Policy?") (Reserve # 18)

## 6. Environmentalism

Required: David Suzuki, "Playing Russian Roulette with World Environment," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies, (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 288-290. (Reserve Book)

Required: Gro Harlem Brundtland, "Towards Common Action: Proposals for Institutional and Legal Change," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies, (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 277-280. (Reserve Book)

Required: Stephen Satris (ed.), Taking Sides (3rd. ed.), Guilford, Ct.: Dushkin, 1992]. pp. 91-109. (Reserve # 19)

Suggested: Robert Paehlke, "Democracy and Environmentalism: Opening the Doors to the Administrative State," in R. Paehlke and D. Torgerson (eds.), Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State, (Peterborough: Broadview, 1990), pp. 35-51. (Reserve # 20)

## 7. Toward World Government

Required: M.S. Sores, "The Tragedy of the Commons in Global Perspective," in C. W. Kegley jr. and E. R. Wittkopf (eds.), The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives (2nd ed.), (New York: Random House, 1991), pp. 319-344. (Reserve # 21)

Required: Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy," in C. Kegley and E. Wittkopf, The Global Agenda (3rd ed.), (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1992) pp. 216-222. (Reserve # 22)

Required: James S. Sutterlin, "The U.N. in a New World Order," in Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (eds.), International Politics, (3rd ed.), (New York: Harper-Collins, 1992, pp. 102-112. (Reserve # 23)

Suggested: H. Bull, The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), pp. 233-256. (Reserve # 24)

## 8. Review: Readings T.B.A.