

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 200 [UT (6)]

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Y 1991 - 1992
MWF 13:00-13:50

Instructor: Scott McAlpine
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OH: TBA

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce the first year or beginning student to the study of politics and government and to the study of policy issues from a political perspective with primary emphasis on Canada and other democratic countries. Topics studied include political ideologies, constitutions, federalism, law and the courts, civil liberties, public opinion, elections, etc. Specific issues addressed will include the environment, the growth of government, Quebec and other matters of ongoing concern.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are

1. to gain basic understanding of concepts, terms, and major theories in political science.
2. to gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the Canadian and other "democratic" political systems in a comparative framework.

PREREQUISITE

Nil

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades for each component will be recorded on the 9 point scale.

Quizzes	15%	10 quizzes, dates TBA
Library Assignment 1 (First Term)	5%	Due October 9, 1991
First Term Paper	15%	Due November 18, 1991
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week
Library Assignment 2 (Second Term)	5%	Due February 3, 1992
Second Term Paper	15%	Due March 18, 1992
Final Examination	25%	Exam week

GRADING SYSTEM:

Grades throughout the year that have been calculated in percentages will be converted to the nine point scale by using the following conversion table:

Description	Grade	Percentage Equivalent
Excellent	9	90%-100%
	8	80%-89%
	7	70%-79%
Good	6	60%-69%
	5	50%-59%
Pass	4	40%-49%
	3	30%-39%
	2	20%-29%
	1	0%-19%

A NOTE ON TERM PAPERS

The ability to express yourself in writing is required for the satisfactory completion of this course. Written submissions must be coherent and legible. The instructor may deduct grades for grammatical, spelling, and/or punctuation errors. This will be discussed further in class. Term papers for this course are normally in the 2500-3000 word range (10-15 pages typed, double spaced). Suggested topics and a guide on the writing of Term Papers in Political Science will be distributed in class.

TEXTS

Students should ensure that the correct edition of the following texts are obtained:

- Mark O. Dickeson and Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics (3rd edition) (DF on the reading list)
 - Ronald Landes, The Canadian Polity (2nd edition)
 - T.C. Pocklington, (ed.), Liberal Democracy in Canada and the United States (P on the reading list)
- In addition to readings from the above texts, some reserve library readings are required from:
- H.B. McCullough, Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies (This text is on reserve in the library.)

LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

Students are responsible for all required readings, lecture material and handouts. Additional and/or replacement readings may, on occasion, be assigned as events dictate. Reserve readings are available from the Learning Resources Centre (Library). Readings, while numerous, are generally brief. Lecture dates appear below as a rough guide and some variation is to be expected depending on student interest, and the use of class time to discuss topics of current interest such as the Quebec situation, the events in the Soviet Union, etc.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

1 week

- a) Course Outline and Requirements
- b) Defining Political Science

DF, Preface and Introduction

- c) Approaches to Political Science
Landes, pp. 32-54

UNIT II: BASIC CONCEPTS

2 weeks

- a) Society, Government, and Politics

DF, chapter 1
Landes, pp. 5-15, 28-36

- b) The Growth and Roles of Government

P, chapter 2

- c) Sovereignty, Nation, and State

DF, chapters 4, 5
Campbell and Pai, "The Free Trade Debater: What was it about?" (Reserve #1)
Renan, "What is a Nation?" (Reserve #2)

- d) Power, Legitimacy, Authority

DF, chapters 2, 3
Landes, pp. 36-52

- e) Constitutionalism, Law, and Rule of Law

DF, chapters 6, 7
Dicey, "The Rule of Law" (Reserve #3)

UNIT III: POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

4 weeks

- e) The Meaning of Ideology
 DP, chapter 3
 Christenson, et.al. Ideologies and Modern Politics
 chapter 1, (Reserve #4)
- b) Fascism and National Socialism
 DP, chapter 13
 McCullough, pp. 175-180 (Reserve Book)
- c) Core Democratic Ideologies: Conservatism, Liberalism and Democratic Socialism
 DP, chapters 10, 11, 12
 Oakeshott, "Conservatism" (Reserve #5)
 McCullough, pp. 31-34, 38-40, 151-157 (Reserve Book)
- d) Revisionist and Applied Democratic Ideologies: Reform Liberalism and Neo Conservatism
 P, chapter 3
 McCullough, pp. 47-52, 98-108
 The Regina Manifesto (Reserve #6)
- e) Marxism and its future
 Marx & Engels, "Revolutionary Socialism" (Reserve #7)
 Gorbachev, Perestroika, chapter 1 (Reserve #8)
- f) Partial and Emerging Ideologies: Fundamentalism and Environmentalism
 McCullough, pp. 227-234, 243-253, 272-280, 288-290
 (Reserve Book)
- g) Summary, Left, Right and Centre
 DP, chapter 14
 Lasbert et.al. "In Search of Left/Right ..."
 (Reserve #9)

UNIT IV: BASIC FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

2 weeks

- a) Authoritarian and Totalitarian Forms
 DP, chapters 15, 17, 18
 Landes, pp. 15-18
- b) Liberal Democracy
 DP, chapter 16
 P, chapter 1
- c) Liberal Democratic Variants: Democratic Elitism and Pluralism
 Dye & Zeigler, The Irony of Democracy, chapter 1
 (Reserve #10)

UNIT V: CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

4 weeks

- a) Conceptual Overview
 P, chapter 5
 DP, chapters 19, 20
 Landes, pp. 18-23
- b) Federalism
 Landes, Chapter 3
 P, Chapter 5
- c) The U.S. Constitution
 The Constitution of the United States (Reserve #11)
- d) Canadian Constitutional Development
 DP, Appendices A, B The Constitutional Amendment, 1987
 (Reserve #12)
 Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake" (Reserve #13)

UNIT VI: GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES

4 weeks

- a) The Executive
 - Landes, chapter 4
 - P, chapter 3
 - DF, chapter 27
 - Lammers and Myosarky, "The Canadian Cabinet in Cooperative Perspective" (Reserve #13)
 - Franks, "Borrowing From The United States..." (Reserve #14)

b) The Legislative Branch

- Landes, chapter 6
- P, chapter 7
- DF, chapter 26
- Lenco and Regenstreif, "Let the Senate Be..." (Reserve #15)
- Kaduck, "Prairie Fire..." (Reserve #16)

c) The Civil Service

- Landes, chapter 5
- DF, chapter 28
- P, chapter 9
- Savoie, "In and Out of Ottawa ..." (Reserve #17)

d) The Judiciary

- Landes, chapter 7
- DF, chapter 29
- Russell, "The Effect of a Charter ..." (Reserve #18)

UNIT VII: POLITICAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOUR

6 weeks

a) Political Culture

- DF, chapter 21
- Landes, chapter 8, 12

b) Pressure Groups

- Landes, chapter 13
- DF, chapter 22
- P, chapter 11
- Pross, "Pressure Groups..." (Reserve #19)

c) Political Parties

- DF, chapter 23
- P, chapter 10
- Lowi, "The Mythology of the American Two-Party System" (Reserve #20)
- Landes, chapter 9

d) Elections and Electoral Systems

- Landes, chapter 10, 11
- P, chapter 4, 13
- DF, chapter 25
- Gleas et.al., "Voter Turnout..." (Reserve 21)
- Gibbins et.al., "Public Opinion and Policy Preferences..." (Reserve #22)

UNIT VIII: PUBLIC POLICY

1 week

a) Theoretical Considerations

- Anderson, The Study of Public Policy, pp. 1-25 (Reserve #23)
- Schwartz, "Comparing United States and Canadian ..." (Reserve #24)

b) Budgetary Processes and Control

- Readings, T.B.A.

UNIT IX: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1 week

a) Overview

- DF, chapter 8

b) Change and Stability in the International System

- Readings TBA

UNIT X: ISSUES AND TRENDS

2 weeks

a) Quebec and Canada in the 1990's

- b) Native Self Government

c) Other Issues