

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 203

MODERN POLITICAL ISSUES

Fall, 1991
Instructor: S. A. McAlpine
Office Hours: TBA

M W F 1500-1550
Office: C426
Tel: 539-2982

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 on a more global scale and topics covered here include the nature of international law, terrorism, international human rights and environmentalism. The final section of the course focusses on a selection of current controversies in Canada pertaining to political authority and individual liberty. Topics here include economic and social justice, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia and pornography.

Students are expected to keep up to date on current events since these will be discussed in the context of the course.

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 200 (a full year introductory course).

Texts:

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. Stephen Satris (ed.), Taking Sides, 2nd edition (Dushkin)
2. Sophocles, Antigone. (Note: Any edition will suffice.)

Grading:

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.

Section I examination	30% In class
Section II examination	30% In class
Final Examination	40% Scheduled by registrar

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 (4 weeks)

1. Introduction

2. State and Authority: Sophocles' Antigone

Required: Sophocles Antigone.

3. Rights and Political Authority

Required: Bertrand Russell, "Political Ideals," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 3-6. (Reserve Book)

Required: 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 # 1)

4. Law and Morality

Required: Mark O. Dickerson and Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach (2nd ed.). (Toronto: Methuen, 1986), pp. 42-49. (Reserve # 2)

Required: Sarris, Issue 14 ("Should the Law Enforce Morality?")

Suggested: Edwin M. Coulter, Principles of Politics and Government (4th ed.). (Dubuque, Indiana: Wm. C. Brown, 1991), pp. 87-93. (Reserve # 3)

5. Constitutional Rights, Democracy, and the Charter

Required: Constitution Act, 1982. Parts I and II (to be distributed in class)

Required: Ian Greene, The Charter of Rights. (Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1989), pp. 208-228. (Reserve # 4)

Suggested: Keith Banting and Richard Simeon, "Federalism, Democracy and the Constitution Act," in Keith Banting and Richard Simeon (eds.), And No-One Cheered: Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution Act. (Toronto: Methuen, 1984) (Reserve # 5)

6. Federalism: Meech Lake and Beyond
 Required: The 'Meech Lake Accord' (to be distributed in class)
 Required: A. Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake," in K.E. Swinton and C. J. Rogerson (eds.), Competing Constitutional Visions: The Meech Lake Accord. (Toronto: Carswell, 1988), pp. 247-262. (Reserve # 6)
 OTHER READINGS T.B.A.
7. Basic Governmental Institutions in Canada
 Required: E. Forsey, How We Are Governed. (Reserve # 7)
8. Native Self-Government
 Required: W. Cragg, Contemporary Moral Issues (2nd. ed.). (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1987), pp. 341-399. (Reserve # 8)
 Suggested: Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics (2nd ed.). (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991) "Oka and Native Rights" (Reserve # 9)

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.W. Kegley Jr. and E.R. Wittkopf (eds.), The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives (2nd ed.). (New York: Random House, 1988). pp. 186-197. (Reserve # 10)
 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 # 11)
2. International Law: Iraq, Kuwait and the Gulf 'After' the War
 READINGS T.B.A.
3. International Terrorism
 Required: 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 # 12)
 OTHER READINGS T.B.A.
4. Democracy And Authority in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
 Required: D.A. Rustov, "Democracy: A Global Revolution?" Foreign Affairs Vol. 69 No. 4 (Fall, 1990), pp. 75-91. (Reserve # 13)

5. Human Rights and the World Order

Required: 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 # 14)

6. Toward World Government

Required: M.S. Soros, "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, 1988), pp. 339-344. (Reserve # 15)

Required: H. Bull, The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), pp. 233-256. (Reserve # 16)

7. Environmentalism

Suggested: 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)

Suggested: 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: 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 # 23)

SECTION III: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (4 weeks)

1. Ideologies: Justice, the Welfare State and Free Enterprise

Required: D.J.C. Carmichael, "Political Ideologies and Values," in T.C. Pocklington (ed.), Liberal Democracy in Canada and the United States. (Toronto: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1985), pp. 60-90. (Reserve # 17)

Required: John Rawls, "The Principles of Justice," and J.R. Lucas, "The Theory of Rawls," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 60-65. (Reserve Book)

Required: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 16

Suggested: Sattris, Taking Sides Issues 15 and 17

2. Liberty: J.S. Mill and Paternalism

Required: J. S. Mill, "Of Individuality, As One of the Elements of Well-Being," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 38-40. (Reserve Book)

Required: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 14

Suggested: D.N. Husak, "Paternalism and Autonomy," Philosophy and Public Affairs Vol. 10 No. 1 (Winter, 1981), pp. 27-46. (Reserve # 18)

3. Capital Punishment

Required: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 12

Suggested: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 11

4. Suicide and Euthanasia

Required: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 13

5. Abortion

Required: Roe Vs. Wade (Reserve # 19)

Required: Crininal Code Section 251 (Reserve # 20)

Required: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 9

Suggested: Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics (2nd ed.). (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991). ("Canada's Abortion Saga") (Reserve # 21)

6. Pornography

Required: Sattris, Taking Sides Issue 8

Suggested: Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics (2nd ed.). (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991). ("Pornographic Policy"). (Reserve # 22)

7. Review: Readings T.B.A.