

**POLI 1060**  
**Political Worlds: Themes and Concepts**  
**Fall 2017**

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Office Hours: Tues and Thursday, 3:30-5:00 p.m. (or by appointment)  
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**Course Synopsis**

This is an introduction to political science. No previous knowledge of politics of any sort is required. We begin by exploring the theory and practice of some of the most fundamental and important concepts in political science – power, authority and legitimacy. It is essential to master these before moving on to new material, as each of the paradigms and theories that we discuss throughout the term approaches these concepts in its own unique way. Next, we turn our attention to the major institutions and actors in the political world, such as political parties, advocacy groups, citizens, prime ministers and presidents. We discuss how parliamentary and presidential systems differ in terms of how politics is practiced and how policies are made. We discuss the various methods of voting used around the world. We end the course with several chapters on global politics and development.

**Organization**

We meet as a class for lectures and discussion on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The best way to retain material is through interaction, so I encourage you to get involved in class. Ask questions. Take ownership of your education and be sure that you understand the concepts and arguments presented in lectures, discussions and readings. Always be mindful and respectful of diverse viewpoints.

**Assignments and Grading**

3 online essays at 20% each: 60%  
Tutorial participation: 10%  
Final Exam (date determined by registrar): 30%

**Required Reading**

Maclean, George A. And Duncan Wood. 2014. *Politics: An Introduction* (Second Edition). Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

### *Academic Integrity*

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Click [here](#) to read more.

### *Accessibility*

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click [here](#) to read more.

### *Student Code of Conduct*

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. Click [here](#) to read more.

### *Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect*

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Click [here](#) to read more.

### *Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory*

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca) or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

## University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)  
[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures  
[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)
- Scent-Free Program  
<https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

### **Learning and Support Resources**

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:  
[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html)
- Counselling and Psychological Services: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html)
- Black Student Advising: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)
- Aboriginal Student Centre:  
[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/native.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html)
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)
- Writing Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)
- Studying for Success program and tutoring:  
[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

### **Topics and Readings**

**September 5, 7:** Chapters 1 and 2 (Studying Politics and Finding a Common Vocabulary)

**September 12, 14:** Chapter 3 (Political Thought, Philosophy and Ideology)

**September 19, 21:** Chapter 19, 21: Chapter 4 (The Role of Government)

**September 26: Tutorial Group Exercise**

**September 28: Online Essay**

**October 3, 5: Chapter 5 (Branches of Government)**

**October 10, 12: Chapter 6 (Political Systems)**

**October 17, 19: Chapter 7 (Political Participation)**

**October 24, 26: Chapter 8 (Political Socialization and Culture)**

**October 31: Tutorial Group Exercise**

**November 2: Online Essay**

**November 14, 16: Chapters 9, 10 (Politics in Developed and Developing States)**

**November 21, 23: Chapters 11 and 12 (International Politics and Foreign Policy; International Security)**

**November 28: Chapter 13 (International Political Economy)**

**November 30: Online essay**