

POLI 1001: Introduction to Government and Politics
Fall 2020 – Dalhousie University
Asynchronous Delivery via BrightSpace

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This course is a general introduction to the study of political science. In this introductory course, you will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of political life. It will introduce you to a range of key issues and approaches that animate contemporary politics. Topics addressed will include:

- Fundamental concepts in political science;
- Political philosophies and the bedrocks of various ideologies;
- The nature and limits of democracy;
- The relationship between citizenship and political power;
- Forms of political participation and electoral systems;
- The relationship between politics and the media.

The course will begin by centering on the basic themes and concepts that help us analyze ‘politics’, society, political values, and institutions, and then moves to apply and understand those concepts as they relate to the Canadian context. It does so through a three dimensional approach:

1. Political Thought: What is ‘politics’? What is ‘political science’? What is the source of Canadian ways of thinking about ‘politics’ and ‘society’?

2. Political Institutions and ‘actors’: What are the rules (both informal and formal) that dictate what is permissible to, and desirable for, these ‘entities’ to do? How do the institutions of the state work? How do they affect us? How did we get to these rules? How does Canada understand and apply them? Do they still matter?

3. Political values and outcomes: *What* do we want from politics? *Why* do we want those particular things? Do ‘politics’ and how we think about it matter? Does ‘politics’ affect our everyday life? Does it matter in Canada and in Canadian society? Why (or why not)?

4. Fundamentals of the Canadian Parliamentary System: How does Canadian parliament ‘work’? Who (or what) is at the apex of Canadian political power? Who exercises political power? Where do they (or where does it) get that power? To who (or what) does our Constitution give power?

Textbook and Readings:

- *Politics* – Andrew Heywood (5th edition) Macmillan International - RED Globe Press.
 - [https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course\[\]=SUB,FALL20,POLI,POLI1101,&](https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=SUB,FALL20,POLI,POLI1101,&)
- *How Canadians Govern Themselves* – Eugene Forsey. (Canadian Heritage). **Provided on BrightSpace**
- Other **required** readings, articles, and other works posted to Bright Space.

Students are expected to do ALL readings as they WILL BE part of the exams, quizzes, tests, and modules.

Recordings of ANY kind are NOT permitted. The materials presented and posted to BrightSpace, including videos, are **protected by copyright.**

Learning Objectives:

The course aims to

- introduce students to the main concepts and themes that animate political science — their provenance, their content, their development, their contemporary relevance; their Canadian application;
- introduce students to mechanisms through which political preferences are formed, how those affect society, political structures and institutions in general and specifically in Canada; how the processes play out in Canada: elections, voting patterns, political parties, and electoral systems;
- describe and analyze how political institutions work, particularly the Canadian parliamentary system, federalism, and the powers of the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary;
- strengthen *critical* and *independent* thinking capacities;
- refine skills related to the evaluation of empirical evidence derived from literature produced in the discipline;
- lay the foundations which will prepare students for more advanced courses in political science.

Knowledge & Skills Acquisition & Application — Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be expected to be capable of competently

- explaining the main concepts related to the discipline of political science and apply them to real-life situations through independent analysis and critical thinking;
- explaining the basic difference and importance between quantitative and qualitative methods in political science;
- describing basic political philosophies (and their development) and recognize them in speech and/or thought when read or heard in the news or other outlets/venues; explaining their relevance to Canada;
- recognizing and explaining diverse ideological paradigms;
- explaining political preferences and their derivation;
- describing different institutional arrangements, systems and regimes;
- describing the institutional arrangements, structures, and functions in Canada;
- recognizing and explaining electoral systems, political parties, and voting behaviour in Canada;
- recognizing, describing, and operationalizing key concepts in the field of political science;
- structure a logical, methodical, analytical oral argument and research paper related to the discipline;
- communicating effectively in written and oral form.

Important Dates:

Sept 30: Test One (Modules 1 & 2)

October: Writing Political Science Research Papers (Module A)

October 19: Writing Project due

October 31: Test Two (Modules 3 & 4)

November: Writing Political Science Research Papers (Module B)

November 29: Writing Project due

November 30: Test Three (Modules 5 & 6)

December 8: *Cumulative* Final Exam (MODULES 1 – 6)

Grading:

Test One = 10%

Writing Project = 15%

Test Two = 15%

Writing Project = 20%

Test Three = 15%

Cumulative Final Exam = 25%

Rules and Policy Regarding Online Materials:

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Summary of Assignment Requirements:

*Further details about the assignments will be posted to Bright Space

- Quizzes, mid-term examinations, and the final examination *may* be composed of short answer questions, essay questions, multiple choice, and true/false or a combination of these.
- The final exam is cumulative of all modules (1 through 6).
- Writing projects consist of practicing the ‘art of academic paper writing’ piece-by-piece. We will begin with how to decide what to write about and proceed with the following:
 - How to formulate a research question (Develop a thesis statement and an introduction. Special note: introductions are usually written towards the end of your research but we will practice this & take a look at strategies to construct a solid conclusion. You will write conclusions when your paper is completed);
 - How to choose and follow a methodology (a basic discussion about methodology. You’ll learn more about this in Research Methods in your second year);
 - How to research (library site use);
 - How to paraphrase and cite;
 - How to prepare to write your paper (timelines);
 - How to create an outline for your research;
 - How to write the various parts of your paper: thesis statement, introduction, body & development of research question, writing effective conclusions, etc.
 - How to read material and collect notes from it;
 - How to construct a bibliography;
 - Editing and proofreading;
 - Know when to re-work; know when you’re done!

Writing projects submitted must be (more details are available on BrightSpace:

Research paper topics will be based on those posted on BrightSpace.

- Written in 12-point font (Times New Roman only).
- Do not exceed page limit indicated on the detail sheet on BrightSpace or nor should you fail to meet the minimum number of pages required.
- Projects must have a cover page with your name, course name and number, the date, and a title (this is so you will learn to format these correctly).

- Formatted consistently in APA style (students who are used to other formats may request an exemption from APA)
- Writing Projects format will be outlined in Writing Project Sheets on BrightSpace.
- **Projects that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted.**
- **10% daily deduction (including weekends) for late projects unless justified by medical note or other attenuating circumstances.**

Dalhousie Grading Scheme:

A+	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	85-89		
A-	80-84		
B+	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	73-76		
B-	70-72		
C+	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	60-64		
C-	55-59		
D	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of 'C' is required).
F	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

Course Reminders:

- Review Statment about Copyright
- Review Assignment Summaries
- Review Plagiarism Warnings
- **No alternative dates for quizzes/exams/due dates will be set except for serious medical conditions**
- **No assignments will be given for extra credit.**
- Late assignments without justification will be attributed late penalties of 10% per day after the due date including weekends
- **All projects and papers MUST BE submitted to BrightSpace. No email submissions will be accepted unless given permission to do so by the instructor.**
- Familiarize yourself with course ‘Drop Dates’. These can be found here:
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

SECTION B: UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES & RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate”;

University Statements

- Academic Integrity http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html
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.
- Accessibility https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html
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).
- Student Code of Conduct
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html
- 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.
- 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).
(read more: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)
- 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 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
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
(Halifax)
<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre/academic-support.html>
(Truro)
- Fair Dealing Guidelines
<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Dalhousie University Library <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Indigenous Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
- Black Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- International Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html
- Student Health Services
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html
- Counselling
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/frequently-asked-questions-august-2017.html
- Copyright Office
<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>
- E-Learning website
<http://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services
<http://dsu.ca/dsas>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson 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
- Faculty or Departmental Advising Support: Studying for Success Program:
http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Course Modules - September

MODULE A: Writing for Political Science

- ✓ Plagiarism & Paraphrasing
- ✓ How to use the library resources for Research
- ✓ What to do with all that material and knowing when to stop collecting
- ✓ Content and Form

Module One:

- A. Introductory Lecture**
- B. What is political science and what does it study?**
- C. Module 1 exercises on Bright Space**

Welcome to Dalhousie – Welcome to Political Science

- Course Introduction
- Syllabus Review
- Basic Expectations
- How to use your textbook and read Bright Space material effectively
- What will we be studying this year; what will we be learning?
- Explanations of Assignments

What is political science and what does it study?

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 1 (Pp. 1-21)
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #1 — *What is Politics?* (Text Chapter)

Module Two:

- A. What is political science and what does it study? (Continue from Module 1 with Pp. 1-21)**
- B. Module 2 exercises: on Bright Space**

Lectures 1 & 2:

Political Concepts and Ideas – Power & Authority

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 4: Democracy & Legitimacy (pp.79-108)

Democracy – The Fundamentals

- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #2 – *Pericles' Funeral Oration*
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #3 – *Robespierre's Speech*
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #4 – *Democracy & Populism* (Chapter 5, OUP – Democracy)

The Nation & The State

- ✓ Textbook: Chapters 3 (pp. 56-59 and 69-77) & 6 (pp. 130-149)
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 4a – *Nationalism* (MacLean & Wood excerpt)

Political Culture

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 9 (pp.194-209 & pg. 217)
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 5 – *Canadian Political Culture* – (N. Nevitte et al.)
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #6 – *What is Social Capital?* (Excerpt by OECD Insights: Human Capital)

Test: Modules 1 & 2 -- September 30th

Course Modules - October

Module Three:

- A. Module 3 exercises on Bright Space**
- B. Where do our ideas about politics come from?**
- C. The most important and influential political theories/philosophies will be explored**

The Age of Revolutions

- ✓ Textbook: Review pg. 84, “Why Do Revolutions Occur?”
- ✓ Bright Space: Readings # 7 through to #9

Political Theory – How Do We Think about Politics? Western Political Thought & Beyond

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 2 (pp. 26-55). Some pages will be review from Module 2.
 - ✓ Textbook: Chapter 3 (pp. 60-69) & Review (pg. 138-140)
 - ✓ Bright Space: Readings # 10 through to #15
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Module Four:

- A. Module 4 exercises on Bright Space**
- B. Module A: Writing for Political Science on Bright Space**
- C. Various Forms of Government; Who/What has power & what are they ‘allowed’ to do with it?**

Institutions of the State & Forms of Government; Systems and Regimes; Branches

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 5 (pp. 109-129)
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 21 – *Federalism and Democracy* – J. Smith (Federalism)

Elements of the State - Constitutions & the Rule of Law

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 13 – (pp. 292-314)
 - ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 16 — *Rule of Law in Canada* (E. Forsey, Weblink)
 - ✓ BrightSpace: Readings # 16a through to #16d
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30th: Writing Project Due (see BrightSpace)

Test: Modules 3 & 4 – October 31st.

Course Modules - November & December

MODULE A: Writing for Political Science

- ✓ Solid Thesis Statement, outline, and intro Review
- ✓ Solid ‘Body’ construction, bibliography, and Intro revision review

Module Five:

A. Module 5 exercises on Bright Space

Political Executives & Assemblies

Textbook: Chapter 14 (pp. 315-340)

Chapter 15 (pp. 341-363)

- ✓ Link: Reading # 1a – *How a Bill Becomes Law*. Government of Canada

Module Six:

- A. Module 6 exercises on Bright Space**
- B. Canadian Parliamentary System**

The Canadian Founding & The Canadian Parliamentary System

- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 17 – *Features of Canada* (Government of Canada Web link)
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 1-2
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 47-48
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 18 – *A Crown of Maples* (Government of Canada PDF)
- ✓ BrightSpace: Re-read #21 – “Federalism” by J. Smith from Module 4

Branches & the Canadian State

- ✓ Bright Space: Continue Reading # 18 – *A Crown of Maples* (Government of Canada PDF)
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 8-19
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 32-40
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 20 – *Constitutional Conventions* (A. Heard)
- ✓ Bright Space: Review Reading # 21 – From *Module 4* – J. Smith (Federalism)
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 41-45
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 24-29

Parliament and Federalism

- ✓ Booklet: pp. 3-6
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 7-8
- ✓ Booklet: pp. 21-23 & 46
- ✓ Bright Space: Finish Reading # 18 – *A Crown of Maples* (Government of Canada PDF)

Parties & Party Systems – Elections, Representation, & Voting

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 11 (pp. 244- 268) & Chapter 10 (pp. 218-243)
- ✓ BrightSpace: Readings #22 through to #25
- ✓ BrightSpace: Readings # 19, 19a & 19b

November 29th: Writing Project Due (see BrightSpace)

Self-assessment practice test for Modules 5 & 6 in preparation for the final exam is available on BrightSpace.

December 8 – Cumulative Final Exam