

POLI 1060 — Political Worlds: Themes and Concepts
Dalhousie University – Fall 2020 - Asynchronous Online Delivery on Bright Space

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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 in general and, in particular, in Canada. Topics addressed will include:

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

- **Political Thought:** What is ‘politics’? What is ‘political science’? What is the source of Canadian ways of thinking about ‘politics’ and ‘society’?
 - **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?
 - **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)?
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Textbook and Readings:

1. *Introduction to Politics* – Garner et al, Oxford University Press

[https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course\[\]=SUB,FALL20,POLI,POLI1060,&](https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=SUB,FALL20,POLI,POLI1060,&)

2. Other *required* readings will be posted to BrightSpace. It is very important to keep up with class readings in order to gain full benefit from this class. Students are expected to have done all readings.

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

Sept19: Worksheet submission (details on Bright Space)

Sept 30: Test One (Modules 1 & 2)

October 19: Writing Project due

October 23: Worksheet submission (details on Bright Space)

October 31: Test Two (Modules 3 & 4)

November 20: Research paper due

November 30: Test Three (Modules 5 & 6)

December 1: Worksheet submission (details on Bright Space)

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

- ✓ No alternative dates for quizzes/exams/due dates will be set except for serious medical conditions
- ✓ No assignments will be given for extra credit.

Grading:

Test One = 5%

Worksheet = 5%

Writing Project = 10%

Worksheet = 5%

Test Two = 15%

Research paper = 20%

Test Three = 15%

Worksheet = 5%

Cumulative Final Exam = 20%

Summary of Assignment Requirements:

- You will develop your own research based on particular topics which will be outlined and discussed in class, and posted to BrightSpace.
- You will submit chapter worksheets which will allow you to assess your comprehension of the material.
- Tests, quizzes, exams can be made of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answers, or essay questions.

Papers must be:

- Written in 12-point font (Times New Roman only).
 - 9-10 pages double-spaced. Do not exceed this limit of ten (10) pages or fail to meet the minimum of nine (9) pages.
 - Formatted consistently; styled either MLA or APA.
 - Papers that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted.
 - No late papers will be accepted without a reasonable justification.
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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;
- communicate effectively in written and oral form.

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.

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

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 (Outline, Body, Bibliography, etc)
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Module One:

- A. Introductory Lecture**
- B. What is political science and what does it study?**

Welcome to Dalhousie – Welcome to Political Science

- Course Introduction & Basic Expectations
 - Syllabus Review & Explanations of Assignments
 - How to use your textbook and read Bright Space material effectively
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What is political science and what does it study?

- ✓ Textbook: Introduction (pp. 1-16)
 - ✓ Worksheet Questions: pg. 15, Numbers 1 & 3
 - ✓ Worksheet Questions: #1
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Module Two:

***What is political science and what does it study? (Continue from Module 1 with Pp. 1-21)**

Political Concepts and Ideas – Power & Authority

- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #1 — *What is Politics?* (Text Chapter)
- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 2, pp. 40-46
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: pg. 54, Numbers 1
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: Numbers 1-4

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)
- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 3, pp.55-58 & 62-70
- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 4, pg. 74-5 (Positive & Negative Freedom)
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: pg. 70, Number 1
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-4

The Nation & The State

- ✓ Textbook: Chapters 1, pp. 19-30 & 36-39
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 5 – *Nationalism* (MacLean & Wood excerpt)
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: pg. 38, Number 1, 3, & 9
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1 & 2

Political Culture

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 13, pp. 261-279
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 6 – *Canadian Political Culture* – (N. Nevitte et al.)

- ✓ Bright Space: Reading #7 – *What is Social Capital?* (Excerpt by OECD Insights: Human Capital)
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1 & 2

Worksheet Submission: September 19th
Test: Modules 1 & 2 -- September 30th

October

Module Three:

- A. Where do ideas about politics come from?**
- B. The most important and influential political theories/philosophies will be explored**

The Age of Revolutions

- ✓ Bright Space: Readings # 8 through to #16

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

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 1, pp. 31-36
 - ✓ Textbook: Chapter 5, pp. 87-107 & Chapter 6, pg. 110-112
 - ✓ Bright Space: Continue Readings # 8 through to #16
 - ✓ Worksheet Questions: pg. 106, Numbers 1, 3, 10
 - ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-5
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Module Four:

- A. Various Forms of Government; Who/What has power & what are they ‘allowed’ to do with it?**
- B. Review Political Culture**

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

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 7, pp. 135-159
- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 14, 283-302
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-13
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 17 – *Federalism and Democracy* – J. Smith (Federalism)

Elements of the State - Constitutions & the Rule of Law

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 8, pp. 160-181
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 18 — *Rule of Law in Canada* (E. Forsey, Weblink)
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-13

Writing Project Submission: October 19th
Worksheet Submission: October 23rd
Test: Modules 3 & 4 – October 31st

November & December

Module Five:

Assemblies & ‘Popular’ Houses

Political Executives & Assemblies

Textbook: Chapter 9, pp. 183-204

BrightSpace: Reading # 19 – *How a Bill Becomes Law*. Government of Canada

Module Six:

The Canadian Parliamentary System, Representation, Elections & Electoral Systems

*Crown of Maples (COM)

*How Canadians Govern Themselves (HCGT)

The Canadian Founding & The Canadian Parliamentary System

- ✓ HCGT: pp. 1-2
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 47-48
- ✓ COM: Reading # 20 – *A Crown of Maples* (Government of Canada PDF)
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-15

Branches & the Canadian State

- ✓ COM: Continue Reading # 20 – *A Crown of Maples* (Government of Canada PDF)
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 8-19
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 32-40
- ✓ Bright Space: Reading # 21 – *Constitutional Conventions* (A. Heard)
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 41-45
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 24-29
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-15

Parliament and Federalism

- ✓ HCGT: pp. 3-6
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 7-8
- ✓ HCGT: pp. 21-23 & 46
- ✓ COM: Finish Reading # 20 – *A Crown of Maples* (Government of Canada PDF)
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-15

Parties & Party Systems – Elections, Representation, & Voting

- ✓ Textbook: Chapter 11, pp. 218-237
- ✓ Worksheet Questions: 1-10
- ✓ BrightSpace: Readings #22 through to #25

Paper Due: November 20th

Test: Modules 5 & 6 -- November 30th

Worksheet Submission: December 1st

Cumulative Final Exam: December 8