



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Inspiring Minds

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

POLI 1001.03

Summer 2022

Introduction to Government I

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation

Instructor: Dr. Natalie A. Ghosn, Esq.

Seminars: 9:05-11:55AM M/T/W/R

Classroom: Virtual Classroom via Brightspace

Office Hours: Flexible Hours/Email for Appointment

Email: nghosn@dal.ca

Course Description

POLI 1001 offers a general introduction to the study of politics. It focuses primarily on politics in Canada. This course is typically followed by POLI 1002 which takes an international approach to the study of politics. Students will be exposed to the structure of the Canadian political system and be given a broad overview of more specialized topics in the field of Political Science. Some of the topics covered in this course are: What is Politics; Political Philosophy; Ideologies; Minority Nationalism; Federalism; Voting and Elections; Political Parties; Political Change; Authoritarianism; Democratization; Political Change; War and Terrorism; The Canadian Constitution; Language Rights in Canada; Judicial Law-Making and Aboriginal Land and Treaty Rights.

Course Materials

Canadian Constitution: The Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982 are posted under the content section on the Brightspace course website.

Course Textbook: Introduction to Political Science, 2nd Ed. by Craig Parsons.

Other Readings: Readings listed in the outline below that are not in your course textbook are posted in the contents section in PDF format on Brightspace under their assigned reading date.

Not all listed readings are required readings, specific instructions will be given during the introductory class.

Statement on Classroom Conduct and Freedom of Speech

Students are always encouraged to share their opinions and challenge accepted ways of thinking. By the same token, students should expect to have their own beliefs and values challenged, both by their instructor and by their classmates. The free exchange of ideas can be an uncomfortable, confusing, and even an upsetting experience, but it is vital to the learning process. As such, the learning process is only possible in an environment where all feel respected and dignified. A classroom is a community, one where every individual is an equal member. For this reason, uncivil, disrespectful, discriminatory, harassing, or disruptive communication and/or conduct are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Accommodations

As your professor, I will make every effort to accommodate any special needs or circumstances of my students. More information about accessibility services Dalhousie University can be found at https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Students must not plagiarize the course readings or other sources. Learn to make proper citations for all direct references or quotations from any source used. Text notes may be placed either at the end of the essay or at the bottom of the page. Students who plagiarize material in essays or are found to be cheating on the tests or exams in this course will receive a zero mark on the assignment and a repeated offence will result in a zero in the course grade. The instructor will write a letter to the Dean of Arts and to the Registrar documenting all incidents of cheating or plagiarism.

Communicating with the Instructor

Communicating with the Professor is best by email for shorter questions and by office hour appointment for longer questions.

Academic Support

The Writing Centre provides free academic support for students. Tutors are available for conversations to support your academic work and experienced tutors at the Writing Centre help students with academic, professional, or creative written work for undergraduate and graduate programs. For more information or to book an appointment visit their website at https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html.

Assessment

No credit is given for this course unless all the requirements for it have been completed!

A brief description of the assessments follows. Additional details will be provided in class but not posted elsewhere.

Critical Participation - 25%

Introduction Assignment - 20%

In-Class Presentations - 25%

Research Paper - 30%

More Information on Course Assessment

Critical Participation - 25% - Ongoing

Critical participation is worth 25% of your final grade. Students are expected to come to class daily, read the assignments before class and join in class discussion. Students are also expected to remain engaged during class time.

Introduction Assignment - 20% - Due May 13, 2022

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. In the first part of this assignment you are asked to provide a short introduction of yourself, your background (if you would like to share) and why you are interested in taking a class on government and politics. In the second part of this assignment you are being asked to discuss one topic related to government and politics, broadly interpreted, that you take issue with.

Research Paper Presentations - 25% - Due May 18, 2022

Research paper presentations are worth 25% of your final grade. Presentations will take place in class on March 18th. The presentation is designed as an opportunity to present your ideas and research for your upcoming research paper. It will allow you to gain feedback from your professor and your fellow students to help you develop your ideas and arguments. If you are a student suffering from anxiety you may reach out to your professor and make special arrangements to present to me during office hours; however, it is highly encouraged that everyone present their paper during class as the objective of the presentation is to get constructive feedback from your classmates.

Research Paper - 30% - Due May 31, 2022

The research paper is worth 30% of your final grade. The research paper will be 1500-2000 words in length. Standard formatting requirements will be required (double-spaced, times new roman font, standard margins, page numbers, cover page). The paper must include proper citations and a works cited page. Detailed requirements will be presented in class. For this project, students will develop a research question of their own choosing that must be approved by the instructor prior to the commencement of the project. The project will require the student to implement three peer-reviewed sources as well as three readings from the course materials/course textbook.

Course Policies

- 1) Late Assignments: All assignments must be submitted on the due date at the stated time, unless accompanied by a doctor's note or other form of documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day, including on weekends.

- 2) Handing in Assignments: Assignments should be handed in electronically via the assignment dropbox on the course website. If you require another arrangement, please let me know in advance.

- 3) E-mail and Phone: I encourage you to reach out to me via email for any help you require with course materials and assignments. I will respond to your email within 2 days. **Students are required to use their Dalhousie e-mail account for course-related correspondence.**

- 4) Course Website: Brightspace will be used to post the course outline and reading materials. Class notes will not be posted on Brightspace. Brightspace e-mail will not be used.

5) Correct Use of Language: Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments.

Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage Points	Rating
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent
A	4.00	85-89	
A-	3.70	80-84	
<hr/>			
B+	3.30	77-79	Good
B	3.00	73-76	
B-	2.70	70-72	
<hr/>			
C+	2.30	67-69	Satisfactory
C	2.00	63-66	
C-	1.70	60-62	
<hr/>			
D	1.00	50-59	Marginal
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F	0.00	0-49	Failure or Withdrawal After Deadline

Topics and Weekly Readings

Introduction to Government I -POLI 1001.03

May 9 - Introduction to the Course - What is Politics?

Read: *Introduction*, Introduction to Political Science by Craig Parsons, 2021 (Course Textbook).

May 10 - Political Philosophy and Its Offshoot: Political Science

Read: *Chapter 2*, Introduction to Political Science by Craig Parsons, 2021 (Course Textbook).

May 11 - Ideologies, Minority Nationalism and a Federalist State

Read: *Chapter 3*, Introduction to Political Science by Craig Parsons, 2021 (Course Textbook).

Read: Choudhry, Sujit. *Does the World need more Canada?* The Politics of the Canadian model in Constitutional Politics and Political Theory. International Journal of Constitutional Law, Volume 5, Issue 4, October 2007, Pages 606-638 (Course Website).

Read: Constitution Act, 1867, ss.91-95.

May 12 - Voting, Elections and Political Parties

Read: *Chapter 10*, Introduction to Political Science by Craig Parsons, 2021 (Course Textbook).

May 16 - Political Change: Authoritarianism and Democratization

Read: *Chapter 11*, Introduction to Political Science by Craig Parsons, 2021 (Course Textbook).

May 17 - Political Change: War and Terrorism

Read: *Terrorism* by Jane Boulden in The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws, 2008 (Course Website).

Read: *Fast-Track Justice – The Special Tribunal for Lebanon Defines Terrorism* by Matthew Gillet and Matthias Schuster, Journal of International Criminal Justice, 2011 (Course Website).

Read: *Terrorism as an International Crime* by Antonio Cassese in International Criminal Law, Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 2008 (Course Website).

Read: Freedom from Torture; Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment in International Human Rights Law, 8th Edition, by Rhona K. M. Smith, 2018 (Course Website).

May 18 - In-Class Presentations

May 19 - Independent Study Day (Project will be assigned during class on May 18)

May 23 - No Class, Victoria Day

May 24 - Law and Politics in Canada: The Canadian Constitution

Read: *The Unbroken Supremacy of the Canadian Constitution* by Brian Bird, 2018 (Course Website).

Read: Constitution Act, 1982, s.32.

May 25 - Language Rights in Canada

Read: *Languages Canada: The Paradoxes of Linguistic Inclusivity - Colonial/Founding, Aboriginal and Immigrant Language Rights* by Keith Battarbee, 2019 (Course Website).

Read: Constitution Act, 1867, s.133.

Read: Constitution Act, 1982, ss.16-23.

May 26 - Judicial Law Making in Canada

Read: *The Law-Making Role of the Supreme Court of Canada: Rapporteur's Synthesis* by Peter W. Hogg, 2022 (Course Website).

Read: Reference re Secession of Quebec, [1998] 2 S.C.R. 217 (Course Website).

May 30 - Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

Read: *Minorities and Indigenous Peoples* by Maivan Clech Lam in *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws, 2008 (Course Website).

Read: Van der Peet, [1996] 2 S.C.R. 507 (Course Website).

Read: R. v. Marshall [1999] 3 SCR 456 (Course Website).

Read: Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), [2004] 3 SCR 511 (Course Website).

May 31 - Concluding Thoughts: Putting It All Together