

Political Science 1055 Governments & Democracy (section 1)

Professor Louise Carbert Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 – 11:30

Lecture: TUPPER Medical Building Theatre C
Office: Hicks Administration Building 359
Office Hours: Tuesday / Thursday after class, and
by appointment

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Overview:

This class is the second half of an introduction to politics. The first unit centres on the challenges facing the nation-state in securing political order through the construction and maintenance of government institutions. The second unit presents different strategies for achieving goals through political action, and evaluates which strategies are most effective under which circumstances. Whereas the first two units focus principally on Canada, the remainder of the course shifts to a global level. The third unit addresses the question: do countries become richer when they make the transition to liberal democracy, or can they become just as wealthy under authoritarian regimes? This particular unit (among others) provides a basis for proceeding to a degree in International Development Studies.

This course provides a foundation for all further courses in political science. This class is preceded by POLI 1050 from the fall term. POLI 1050 is not a required pre-requisite, but the curriculum takes off from where students left off in December. Students are strongly encouraged to review the first half of the textbook.

Required Textbooks:

1. Mark Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan, Brenda O'Neill, *Introduction to government and politics: A conceptual approach*, 9th edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2013).
2. Articles available on-line through Brightspace

Grading Scheme			
Quizzes		Due date	Value (%)
Brightspace quiz 1, chapters 16, 17, 20, 21	100 questions	midnight 31 January	10
Brightspace quiz 2, chapters 22, 23, 24, 25, 26	100 questions	midnight 2 March	10
Brightspace quiz 3, chapters 27, 28, 29, 18, 19	100 questions	midnight 6 April	10
Essay (instructions in syllabus)		30 March	25
Final exam		April exam period	45

1. The Brightspace quizzes are multiple-choice format. They are done on-line, via Brightspace. The goal is to enable you to understand key concepts. They prepare you for the final exam, ensuring that you have acquired a foundation of knowledge from the textbook.

These quizzes will stay open for the duration between them. Lectures will not correspond precisely to the Brightspace due dates. Some students may want to do the quizzes, ahead of lecture. Other students will want to delay until near the due date, after lecture. Your time is yours to organize. The quizzes will be graded immediately on receipt, but the correct answers will not be revealed until after the due date.

2. The essay is based on required readings. Detailed instructions are included in this syllabus. No additional readings beyond the syllabus are required or permitted.
3. The final exam is scheduled for the formal exam period after the end of scheduled classes. The April exam asks you to synthesize, that is to compare and contrast different aspects of the course, in an essay format.
- 4.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS BEGINS 10 JANUARY

INTRODUCTION: Review of formal and informal systems of political science

POLITICAL SYSTEM OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

How does liberal democracy practice freedom, security, and democracy over centuries and for millions of people in a reliable, predictable way?

1. **Classification of political systems: Liberal democracy** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 16, 17)
 - David Rieff, "Why nobody cares about the surveillance state" *Foreign Policy* 22 August 2013.
 - ["The Trap: What happened to our dream of freedom? BBC documentary 2007."](#)
2. **Parliamentary and presidential systems compared** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 20)
3. **Unitary and federal systems** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 21)

United States Presidential Inauguration Panel, Wednesday 18 January, 7pm

Brightspace Quiz 1, chapters 16, 17, 20, 21 due midnight 31 January

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, PERSUASION, ACTION

How do ordinary (and not so ordinary) people operate inside the institutions of liberal democracy to make change?

1. **Political process** (Dickerson *et al.*, chapter 22)
2. **Political parties, interest groups, social movements** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 23)
 - Bethany Horne, "Occupy utopia: Trouble for one spells trouble for all" 13 November 2011
 - Simon Kiss, "Idle no More?" *Policy Nexus blog*, 8 February 2012

STUDY BREAK, 21. 23 February

3. **Communications media** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 24)
4. **Elections and electoral systems** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 25)
5. **Representative Assemblies** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 26)
 - Andrew Coyne, Parliament, "Who needs it?" *Macleans* 10 January 2010.

Brightspace Quiz 2, chapters 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 due midnight 2 March

6. Insurgency, revolution, and violence as a political strategy

- Jamie Barlett, "Licence to kill," *Prospect Magazine* April 2009.
- Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The rise of complex terrorism" *Foreign Policy* Jan/Feb 2002. 52.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

How do the institutions of government put the will of the people into practice?

1. **Political executive** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 27)
2. **Public administration** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 28)
 - [Yes Minister, Open Government" Episode 1.1, 1980](#)
3. **Judiciary** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 29)

DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD

How does a people become healthy, wealthy, and wise? Is it culture, government, or the global system?

1. **Transitions to democracy and economic development** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 18)
 - Paul Krugman, "In praise of cheap labor" *Slate*, 21 March 1997.
2. **Autocratic systems of government** (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 19)
 - Azar Gat, "The return of authoritarian great powers" *Foreign Affairs* (July/August) 2007.

Brightspace Quiz 3, chapters 27, 28, 29, 18, 19 due midnight 6 April

LAST CLASS 6 APRIL

FINAL EXAM to be scheduled during exam period 12 -26 April

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

From the University Calendar: "Students are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances ... may an instructor extend such deadlines." Late papers will be assessed a late penalty at the instructor's discretion. Students who miss a deadline on account of illness are expected to hand in the assignment within one week of their return to class, with a medical certificate, per academic regulations of the Dalhousie Calendar.

The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's office. Exams are scheduled for April 12-26. Make **no travel plans** until you know the date of the exam. Students who think they are obliged to be absent from an examination for some profoundly compelling reason must elaborate that reason in a letter to the Professor in advance of the scheduled exam, and the Professor will render a decision on the matter.

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium of \$75 / course / term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information. Your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

ESSAY DUE ON 30 MARCH 2017

Maximum length – 5 pages, double-spaced, 11 pitch font.

Analyse, critique, and evaluate a pair of articles from the list below. All articles are posted to Brightspace. Here is your choice of pairs of articles to compare and contrast.

PAIR 1: Institutions: Is gridlock a feature or a bug?

- Philippe Lagassé, "[The Crown and prime ministerial power](#)" *Canadian Parliamentary Review* 39: 2, 2016.
- Francis Fukuyama "The decay of American political institutions" *American Interest* 9: 2, 2013.

PAIR 2: Political economy: What are the prospects for an authoritarian revival in the West?

- Ronald Inglehart, "Inequality and modernization" *Foreign Affairs*, 2016, 95:1, 2-10.
- Sheri Berman, "Populism is not fascism" *Foreign Affairs*, 2016, 95:6, 39-44.

PAIR 3 Public opinion: What are the prospects for an authoritarian revival in the West?

- Roberto Foa and Yascha Mounk, "The danger of deconsolidation" *Journal of Democracy* 27:3, 2016.
- Ronald Inglehart, "How much should we worry?" *Journal of Democracy*, 27:3, 2016.

Papers must be submitted in two formats: hard and soft. Hard copy papers are submitted in class or to the political science office. Soft copy papers are submitted to the Brightspace dropbox where it may be checked for plagiarism. No separate title page is necessary, so long as your name is on the first page.

The quality of your analysis rests on the quality of your understanding of the article. A correct knowledge of the author's point of view is the basis of a sophisticated critique. A five-page limit leaves no room for extensive summary and introduction; it forces you to go directly and concisely to the main argumentative points.

A proper bibliography must be included. It need not appear on a separate page. I prefer in-text citation that looks like this (author surname, year of publication, page number). If no page number is available on an html document, cite the paragraph number. Proper citation is an integral part of the essay. Consult a writing manual for direction on the rules for citing specific points, general arguments, and quotations.

The paper should be structured as follows – *ROUGH APPROXIMATION ONLY*

- One paragraph introduction, with signposting and thesis statement
- 1.5 page summary of first article
- 1.5 page summary of second article
- 1 page compare and contrast, critique, evaluation. Bottom line: which article do you think is correct, and which article is wrong? Criticize the articles on substance, not style.
- Bibliography or list of references. Will be very short, so it need not be on a separate page.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived.

At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality.

What does academic integrity mean?

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people's work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student's responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met.

How can you achieve academic integrity?

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/Policies/>)
- Do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- Do not falsify data or lab results
- Be sure not to plagiarize, intentionally or unintentionally, for example.
- Clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work.
- Do not use the work of another from the Internet or any other source and submit it as your own
- When you use the ideas of other people (paraphrasing), make sure to acknowledge the source
- Do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor.

Where can you turn for help?

- Academic Integrity website <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>
Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing
- Writing Centre (http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html) Assistance with learning to write academic documents, reviewing papers for discipline-specific writing standards, organization, argument, transitions, writing styles and citations
- Dalhousie Libraries Workshops (<http://libraries.dal.ca/>) Online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks

- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (<http://studentservices.dal.ca/services/advocacy.html>) Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures.

What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

As your instructor, I am required to report every suspected offence. The process is outlined in the Faculty Discipline Flow Chart (http://senate.dal.ca/Files/AIO_/AcademicDisciplineProcess_Flowchart_updated_July_2011.pdf) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors
- Based on the evidence provided, the AIO decides if there is evidence to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved
- If you are found guilty of an offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning, to failure of the assignment or failure of the class, to expulsion from the University. Penalties may also include a notation on your transcript that indicates that you have committed an academic offence. Updated August 2011.

Grade	Point Value		Definition
A+	4.30	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.00		
A-	3.70		
B+	3.30	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	3.00		
B-	2.70		
C+	2.30	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from university experience.
C	2.00		
C-	1.70		
D	1.00	Marginal pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills.
F	0.00	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00	Incomplete	
W		No credit	Withdrew after deadline
ILL		No credit	Compassionate reasons, illness