

**POLI 1100:**  
**Introduction to Politics and Government: Political Worlds**  
**MWF 3:35-4:25**

Primary Instructor: David Black  
Office Hours: Thursday 2:30-4:00, or by appointment  
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### **Course Synopsis**

This is an introductory class in political science. Through the research and teaching interests of 12 Professors in the Political Science department, you will be exposed to a range of key issues and approaches that animate both our own research and the diverse 'worlds' of politics. David Black is the main contact person for the course. The course will be divided into four broad themes – Foundations: Democracy, Political Economy, and Human Rights; World Politics I: Diplomacy, Conflict, and Cooperation; World Politics II: Inequality, International Organization, and Democratization; and New Issues in Politics. Dates and topics are listed below. Typically, Mondays and Wednesdays are lecture classes, delivered by different Faculty members in a two-week rotation. The Friday "tutorial" time will be used for a combination of guest lectures, review sessions, and testing. Attendance is required for all scheduled classes.

Several topics will be supported by "Very Short Introduction" books from Oxford University Press, available from the Dalhousie Bookstore. The online readings will be posted on the class OWL site.

### **Assignments and Grading**

There will be four **tests** throughout the course of the year, each worth 20% of the final grade. They will consist of short answer questions. They will test you on material from class lectures and assigned readings.

**Test 1: October 26**

**Test 2: December 3**

**Test 3: February 15**

**Test 4: April 8**

In addition, students will be required to write a **reflective commentary** on one guest lecture or panel discussion each semester, worth 10% each for a total of 20%.

**Reflective Commentaries** should be 3-4 double-spaced pages (750-1000 words) in length. They should be written in clear and compelling prose. They should:

- summarize key points from the speakers' presentations.
- critically analyze strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented
- identify key lessons of the presentation(s) for students of politics.

Commentaries will be evaluated on the basis of the clarity and quality of the writing, and depth and insight of critiques and lessons drawn. They *should be* submitted within a week of the presentation on which they are based. They *must be* submitted no later than the last class of the semester.

**In Summary**, your grade will be arrived at as follows:

Tests x 4	80%
Reflective commentary x 2	20%

**Attendance will be monitored. Most importantly, regular attendance at *all* sessions is the best way to ensure that you are prepared for tests, and is essential for the completion of reflective commentaries on special guest sessions.**

Please also remember that for X/Y classes, the deadline by which a student may withdraw is February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **Statement on Academic Integrity**

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the [academicintegrity.dal.ca](http://academicintegrity.dal.ca) website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

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.

### **Requests for Student Accommodation**

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 Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

### **Fall Term (September 10-December 4)**

## **Part I: Foundations: Democracy, Political Economy, Human Rights**

### **September**

#### **David Black**

Political Science: Essential Concepts

- September 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **Katherine Fierlbeck** (k.fierlbeck@dal.ca)

Democracy and Democratic Theory

- September 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

*Fridays in September:*

September 14<sup>th</sup>: Tutorial on Course Organization, Assignments, and Study Skills

September 21<sup>st</sup>: guest lecturers on urban democracy – Halifax Regional Councillor Jennifer Watts; Member of the Halifax Regional School Board David Cameron

### **October**

#### **Robert Finbow** (Robert.finbow@dal.ca)

Political Economy and the State

- October 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **Margaret Denike** (m.denike@dal.ca)

Human Rights and Sexual Politics

- October 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>

*Fridays in October:*

October 10<sup>th</sup>: regular class lecture (Robert Finbow) in lieu of Thanksgiving

October 19<sup>th</sup>: review and test prep session

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Test #1

## **Part II: World Politics (1) – Diplomacy, Conflict, Regionalism**

### **November**

**Brian Bow** ([brian.bow@dal.ca](mailto:brian.bow@dal.ca))

International Relations and Diplomacy

-October 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** – Panel Discussion: the US Presidential Election

**Frank Harvey** ([frank.harvey@dal.ca](mailto:frank.harvey@dal.ca))

Contemporary Conflict and War

- (Remembrance Day November 12<sup>th</sup>); November 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>

**Finn Laursen** ([finn.laursen@dal.ca](mailto:finn.laursen@dal.ca))

The European Union

-November 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

*Fridays in November:*

November 9<sup>th</sup>: regular class lecturer (Brian Bow) in lieu of US Presidential Election panel on the 7<sup>th</sup>

November 16<sup>th</sup>: regular class lecturer (Frank Harvey) in lieu of Remembrance Day

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: review and test prep session

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Test #2

**Remember to submit first reflective commentary NO LATER THAN 3 December**

## WINTER TERM (7 January-8 April)

### Part III: World Politics (2) – Inequality, International Organization, Democratization

#### January

**David Black** (blackd@dal.ca)

Politics of Inequality and Development

-January 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>

-Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>: tutorial on Reflective commentaries and Tests

**Peter Arthur** (parthur@dal.ca)

Development and Democratization in Africa

-January 18<sup>th</sup> (Friday), 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> (Friday), 30<sup>th</sup>

-there will be NO CLASS on Monday, 21 January

**Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>: Guest Lecture by David Malone, President, International Development Research Centre, on “the UN Security Council: Boom or Bust?”**

*Please note: this will be the first of two focus opportunities for your Term 2 Reflective Commentary*

*Fridays in January:*

-January 11<sup>th</sup>: Reflective Commentary and Test feedback session

-January 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>: regular class lectures with Dr. Arthur

#### February

**Ruben Zaiotti** (r.zaiotti@dal.ca)

International Security, International Organization and the UN

-February 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

*Fridays in February:*

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Munro Day – NO CLASS

February 8<sup>th</sup>: review and test prep session with Dr. Black

**February 15<sup>th</sup>: Test #3**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: NO CLASS

## **PART IV : Political Participation and New Issues**

**Michelle Coffin** (michelle.coffin@dal.ca)

Political Parties and Pressure Groups

-February 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

### **March**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>: Panel Discussion with the youngest MLA's in the Nova Scotia Legislature - why participate in Party Politics?**

*Please note: this will be your second and FINAL focus opportunity for your Term 2 Reflective Commentary*

**Anders Hayden** (anders.hayden@dal.ca)

Politics of the Environment

- March 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>

**David Black** ([blackd@dal.ca](mailto:blackd@dal.ca))

Sport and Politics

-March 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Fridays in March and April:*

March 8<sup>th</sup>: Panel Discussion with the youngest MLA's in the Nova Scotia Legislature: why participate in Party Politics?

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS

April 5<sup>th</sup>: Review and test prep session

**Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Test #4**

**Remember to submit second reflective commentary NO LATER THAN 8 April**