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 
Office: Henry Hicks 301A 
Email: blackd@dal.ca 

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 8th, 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 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 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 10th and 12th

Katherine Fierlbeck (k.fierlbeck@dal.ca)
Democracy and Democratic Theory
  - September 17th, 19th, 24th and 26th

Fridays in September:

September 14th: Tutorial on Course Organization, Assignments, and Study Skills
September 21st: guest lecturers on urban democracy – Halifax Regional Councillor Jennifer Watts; Member of the Halifax Regional School Bard David Cameron

October
Robert Finbow (Robert.finbow@dal.ca)
Political Economy and the State
  - October 1st, 3rd, 10th, and 12th

Margaret Denike (m.denike@dal.ca)
Human Rights and Sexual Politics
- October 15th, 17th, 22nd, and 24th

Fridays in October:

October 10th: regular class lecture (Robert Finbow) in lieu of Thanksgiving
October 19th: review and test prep session
October 26th: Test #1

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

November
Brian Bow (brian.bow@dal.ca)
International Relations and Diplomacy
-October 29th, 31st, November 5th, and 9th

November 7th – Panel Discussion: the US Presidential Election

Frank Harvey (frank.harvey@dal.ca)
Contemporary Conflict and War
- (Remembrance Day November 12th); November 14th, 16th, 19th, and 21st

Finn Laursen (finn.laursen@dal.ca)
The European Union
-November 26th, 28th

Fridays in November:

November 9th: regular class lecturer (Brian Bow) in lieu of US Presidential Election panel on the 7th
November 16th: regular class lecturer (Frank Harvey) in lieu of Remembrance Day
November 23rd: review and test prep session
December 3rd: 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 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th
- Friday, January 11th: tutorial on Reflective commentaries and Tests

Peter Arthur (parthur@dal.ca)
Development and Democratization in Africa
- January 18th (Friday), 23rd, 25th (Friday), 30th

- there will be NO CLASS on Monday, 21 January

Monday January 28th: 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 11th: Reflective Commentary and Test feedback session
- January 18th and 25th: regular class lectures with Dr. Arthur

February

Ruben Zaiotti (r.zaiotti@dal.ca)
International Security, International Organization and the UN
- February 4th, 6th, 11th and 13th

Fridays in February:
February 1st: Munro Day – NO CLASS
February 8th: review and test prep session with Dr. Black
February 15th: Test #3
February 22nd: NO CLASS
PART IV : Political Participation and New Issues

Michelle Coffin (michelle.coffin@dal.ca)
Political Parties and Pressure Groups
-February 18th and 20th, March 4th and 6th

March

March 8th: 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 11th, 13th, 18th, and 20th

David Black (blackd@dal.ca)
Sport and Politics
- March 25th and 27th, April 1st and 3rd

Fridays in March and April:

March 8th: Panel Discussion with the youngest MLA’s in the Nova Scotia Legislature: why participate in Party Politics?
March 15th, 22nd, 29th: NO CLASS
April 5th: Review and test prep session

Monday, April 8th: Test #4

Remember to submit second reflective commentary NO LATER THAN 8 April