

Political Science 1100X
From Concepts to Reality: An Introduction to National and
International Politics
Course Syllabus

*An additional syllabus for the winter term will be posted just before it begins.

POLI 1100X Fall 2012

Lectures (First Term): Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:35am-12-55pm

Location: McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building, Auditorium 1

Instructor: Glenn Graham

Office: 358 Henry Hicks

Telephone: 494-1944

E-mail: Glenn.Graham@Dal.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment.

Course Themes, Objectives, and Requirements

By examining the fundamental ideas and principles of political science and the varied institutions and processes that give them practical expression in everyday life, this class explores the question: What makes political science “political”? The approach is both conceptual and comparative and pays special attention to Canada as well as to the major issues such as the tension between international law and the desire for humanitarian justice – of contemporary international politics; and how national and international institutions and processes of globalization have political, economic, social, and cultural ramifications for ‘developed’ and ‘developing’ states. With each instructor teaching a term for this course, we aim to provide the student with a general introductory understanding of politics and government; however, we hope to also encourage critical thinking by the students throughout by providing various (and at times conflicting!) perspectives on some themes, especially the ones that are recurring and interwoven (e.g. those relating to identity and Canadian federalism) between the fall and winter terms.

The course assumes that students have no prior knowledge of political science. We begin the first term with introductory concepts and analysis of different types of political systems and the various institutions of government, socialization, and civil society that we find in everyday political life, (with a focus on Canada and Canadian federalism). Towards the end of the term we extend our analysis by exploring further how “politics” indeed occurs well beyond the territorial level of the nation state. Therefore, in the area of study known as international political economy, we will learn about international institutions and interaction, providing us with perspectives on the interconnectedness/interdependence of political, economic, and cultural life in and between countries and regions as ‘globalization’ processes increasingly exert various demands and pressures on them. Although in the first term we will have briefly and casually addressed ideology, in the second term we will extend our study of politics through exploring in more detail political thought, philosophy, and ideology. Ideas inform and influence politics and approaches to governing and governance; notably, this part of the course will enable students to reflect with even more insight on the practical institutional aspects of government and politics covered in the first term. It also lays a foundation for understanding the cultural (and other) complexities (i.e. competing interpretations of citizenship, representation, nation, region, state involvement in the economy) found in the Canadian federation as we revisit its evolving history. Elements of political thought and ideology will also arise when we discuss political participation through elections and political parties. Similarly to the first term, we will then move into the international

sphere, exploring the politics of developed and developing states, approaches to international politics, and Canada's evolving position in the world.

Format: A class of this size dictates that it will mainly be offered in lecture format; however, questions and some in-class discussion and debate will be encouraged. Teaching aids such as online videos/video clips /movies/DVDs will also be used. Students are reminded that test and exam questions may be derived from all instructional materials (e.g. slides, readings, lecture comments, movies).

Required Textbook (available at the Dalhousie Bookstore):

- MacLean, George A., and Duncan R. Wood. 2010. *Politics: An Introduction*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. Also **included with the purchase of this book** is a helpful companion resource guide on writing: Northey, Margot, Lorne Tepperman, and Patrizia Albanese. 2002. *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Social Sciences*. 4th ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.
- Also, the readings from the reading list below have been scanned and added as PDFs to a readings section on the left hand menu of your OWL course site contingent on copyright permissions being obtained. The readings specific to each topic can also be accessed in their corresponding dated topic section found in the content area of the OWL course site. If for some unforeseen reason copyright permission is not granted you will be notified and the instructor will adjust accordingly.

Requirements and grading scheme for Fall term (each term is worth 50% of the total mark):

First Term:

- "Pop" Quiz: 5%
- Mid-term Test (Oct. 30): 10%
- Micro-paper Writing Assignment (Due Nov. 20) 15%
- December Exam 20%

Grading Scale:

Each assignment will receive a numerical grade. Final grades will be translated into letter grades using the following scale:

90-100: A+
85-89: A
80-84: A-
77-79: B+
73-76: B
70-72: B-
67-69: C+
63-66: C
60-62: C-
50-59: D
0-49: F

Test, “Pop” Quiz, and Exam

The mid-term test will be held on **October 30th in class**. It will cover the lecture material and assigned readings up to the mid-term. Format will mainly be multiple choice/True or False and short answer-type questions. A short “pop” quiz will occur at **some point during the term**. It will be multiple choice/True or False format. It is a “pop” quiz in the sense that you do not know exactly when it will occur, but will be notified, for instance, as it approaches -- that it “will occur next week.” Although only worth 5%, it will be a good exercise to have you review past material and perhaps gain a crucial few points towards your final mark. The end-of-term exam will cover the material for the entire term (with more focus on material taught after the mid-term test) and will be **scheduled during the exam period in December**. Format to be announced.

Micro-paper Writing Assignment (Due November 20, 2012)

As per department protocol, a **physical/hard copy** of the paper must be submitted to the instructor. Papers should be submitted to the instructor in class or during office hours, or to the administrator of the political science department. Papers submitted under the instructor’s office door after the due date will be docked in value up until the day the instructor has **physically accessed** the paper. The instructor is not responsible for electronic paper submissions without a corresponding physical paper. Electronic paper submissions that may have been sent by the student but have not been received in the instructor’s e-mail account--without a corresponding physical/hard copy--will be given a 0%. Therefore it is highly recommended that if students do not submit their paper directly to the instructor, they should submit to the political science department office and have it initialed and dated by the administrator. Papers submitted through the departmental drop-box after business hours will be dated for the previous day. Late papers will receive a penalty of 2.5% per day. Late penalties will only be waived in extenuating cases (e.g. personal or family emergency). Papers submitted late due to illness will require written documentation from a physician that states that the assignment could not be completed because of illness.

The micro-paper writing assignment is designed to facilitate development of your writing, organizational, and analytical skills and to mimic the larger process of term paper writing, which you will be undertaking throughout your university studies. The micro-paper will have a **cover page and works cited page**; be **3-4 pages (not including cover page and works cited page)**, **double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins**. *(see **Chapters 9 and 10 of your Northey et al. (2009) companion book, *Making Sense: A Student’s Guide to Research and Writing, Social Sciences 4th ed.***). This assignment may sound short and easy, but you will discover that it can be quite time-consuming to sort through a couple of short articles, find the points relevant and important to your project and then incorporate them into a concise piece of work. The micro-paper will defend the following thesis statement: ***Since Pierre Trudeau became prime minister of Canada, power has become more concentrated to the point that the form of governing and decision-making in Canada’s executive may now be more accurately described as prime ministerial government rather than cabinet government. Individual ministers, the general Cabinet, and MPs have lost influence over decision-making and government agendas; indeed, recent prime ministers have had the ‘tools’ (and individuals) at their disposal to increasingly enable them to occupy the apex of power in Canada to more of an extent now than has been witnessed in the country’s history.*** ...Research papers normally have an introduction, main body (defending your argument/analyzing), and a conclusion. **Because of space constraints for this assignment, the thesis statement will be your introduction.** The main body will consist of you arranging a coherent body of evidence (understandably you will only be able to cover a few main points and examples with the space allotted) to support the thesis statement, mainly from the **sources provided**. Your conclusion for a short essay would essentially be a

restatement of the thesis in different words with a discussion of implications (see **Northey et al., 2009:178-80**). However, because of space constraints, just restate your thesis in different words and perhaps raise a related question, thought, or issue, maybe with a stylistic flourish, in no more than a few sentences. *Again, see: (**Northey et al., 2008:178-80**). You will be expected to vary the way that you use support from authors (e.g. through direct quotations, within-sentence quotations, and paraphrasing). When writing papers, there are many citing/referencing systems available. For instance, the Chicago Manual of Style and American Psychological Association (APA) are often used in the social sciences. For this assignment, however, you will be required to use the **Social Sciences Style Method (SSS) found in your Northey et al. book (see Ch. 10 beginning on p. 193)**. As the authors note, the SSS method “is based on widely accepted conventions followed in a number of social science journals and books” (2009:196) and will familiarize you with documentation conventions for writing political science papers. **PLEASE be conscious not to plagiarize. Familiarize yourselves with the rules surrounding plagiarism!**

Everyone will use the two sources below for the micro-paper assignment. They are posted as PDFs on the Owl course site. *You are also required to use a source from class that covered the topic. This source can either be a lecture or one of our assigned readings. Again, remember to properly cite and add them to your Works Cited page in SSS style.

Savoie, Donald J. 2009. “Power at the Apex: Executive Dominance.” *Canadian Politics*, 5th Ed. James P. Bickerton and Alain-G. Gagnon (eds.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 115-131.

Martin, Lawrence. 2010. *Harperland: The Politics of Control*. Toronto: Penguin. 57-71; 120-137.

COURSE AGENDA

*Please note: The required pages for the readings are in bold.

Sept. 6- Introduction to the course/expectations

Sept. 11 and 13: Defining and Understanding Politics; Approaches to Political Science; Briefing on Political Concepts that will be explored in the first term

Readings:

- MacLean, George A., and Duncan R. Wood. 2010. *Politics: An Introduction*, **1-13; 19-21**. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.
- Guy, James John. 2010. “What is Politics?” In *People, Politics, and Government: A Canadian Perspective*, 7th ed., **1-19**. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Recommended:

- Dyck, Rand, ed. 2012. *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, 4th ed., **1-24**. Toronto: Nelson.
-

Sept. 18 and 20: The State, The Nation, Globalization

Readings:

- Mintz, Eric, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci. 2009. *Politics, Power and the Common Good*. 2nd ed., **29-50**. Toronto: Pearson.
 - Russell, Peter H. 2010. "Canada—A Pioneer in the Management of Constitutional Politics in a Multi-national Society." In *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics*, edited by Peter H. Russell, Francois Rocher, Debra Thompson, and Linda A. White, **61-66**. Toronto: Edmond Montgomery Publications Limited.
-

Sept. 25 *No Class. Good time to read the assigned short readings for next class!

Sept. 27: Introduction to Regions and Regionalism in Canada

Reading:

- (Book Introduction Excerpt): Bercuson, David J. 1977. "Canada's Burden of Unity: An Introduction." In *Canada and the Burden of Unity*, edited by David J. Bercuson, **1-9**. Toronto: The MacMillan Company of Canada Limited.
 - (Chapter Excerpt on Regionalism): Landes, Ronald G. 2002. *The Canadian Polity: A Comparative Introduction*, **251-252**. Toronto: Prentice Hall.
-

Oct. 2 and 4: Ideology (a briefing as this will be covered in further detail in the second term); Political Socialization and Culture; Civil Society

Readings:

- Guy, James John. 2010. *People, Politics, and Government: A Canadian Perspective*, 7th ed., **39-49**. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- (Chapter excerpt on ideology and Canadian political culture): Jackson, Robert J. and Doreen Jackson. 2009. "The Fabric of Canadian Society." In *Politics in Canada: Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy*, 7th ed., **62-76, 102-104**. Toronto: Pearson.
- MacLean and Wood, **Chapter 8**.

Recommended:

- It would also be helpful to review Guy (2010) **from week 2, pp. 6-10 again**.
-

Oct. 9, 11, 16, 18: Institutions, the Role of Government, and Branches of Government

Required Readings:

(For Oct. 9): MacIvor, Heather. 2006. "Institutions and Politics." In *Parameters of Power*, 4th ed., **1-28**. Toronto: Nelson.

(For Oct. 11): MacLean and Wood, **Chapter 4**.

(For Oct. 16): MacLean and Wood, **Chapter 5**.

(For Oct. 18): MacIvor, Heather. 2006. "The Political Executive and the Permanent Executive." In *Parameters of Power*, 4th ed., 269-327. Toronto: Nelson.

Oct. 23 and 25: Political Systems; Pre-"Confederation"; Discussion, Q & A, and review in final preparation for the mid-term test.

* The plan over these two classes is to learn about political systems, briefly survey Canada's political colonial history, and then watch a movie about the "making" of Canada. This will hopefully help in contextualizing and understanding the concepts and terminology that will be covered before, throughout, and after the movie in class.

Required Readings:

- MacLean and Wood, **Chapter 6, pp. 134-150**
- (Excerpt from Chapter 2 on Pre-Confederation History): Jackson, Robert J. and Doreen Jackson. 2009. "The Canadian Nation and State." In *Politics in Canada: Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy*, 7th ed., 30-37. Toronto: Pearson.
- Wallace, W. Stewart, "History, Constitutional", in *The Encyclopedia of Canada*, Vol. 3, Toronto, University Associates of Canada, 1948, pp. 147-153. Online link:

<http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/Conthistcan.htm>

Oct. 30: MID-TERM TEST

Nov. 1 and 6: The Evolving History of Canadian Federalism; Overview and Q & A for Micro Paper/Paper-Writing

Required Readings:

- MacLean and Wood, **Chapter 6, pp. 150-158.**
 - (Excerpt from Chapter 6): Jackson, Robert J. and Doreen Jackson. 2009. "Contested Federalism." In *Politics in Canada: Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy*, 7th ed., 194-207. Toronto: Pearson.
-

Nov. 8, 15, 20: Constitutions (comparative), Rights and Freedoms, and Constitutional Politics

Required Readings:

- **(For Nov. 8):** Guy, James John. 2010. "Understanding Constitutions." In *People, Politics, and Government: A Canadian Perspective*, 7th ed., 245-265. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall. * **Just Chapter 9.**
- **(For Nov. 15):** Gibbons, Roger. 2009. "Constitutional Politics." In *Canadian Politics*. 5th ed., edited by James P. Bickerton and Alain G. Gagnon, 97-113. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- **(For Nov. 20 *Also note: Micro-paper is due):**
Debate: "Is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Antidemocratic?"
Yes: Robert Martin; No: Philip L. Bryden. In *Cross Currents: Contemporary Political Issues*, 5th ed., edited by Mark Charlton and Paul Barker, 86-97. Scarborough: Nelson.

***On Nov. 20 we will be viewing a video about the 30th anniversary of the Canadian Constitution.**

Nov. 22, 27, 29: States and Markets: The field of Political Economy in Political Science; International Political Economy

Required Readings:

- Haddow, Rodney. 2012. "States and Markets: Studying Political Economy in Political Science." In *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, 4th ed., edited by Rand Dyck, 78-97. Toronto: Nelson.
- MacLean and Wood, Chapter 13.

*We will also be watching a movie that explores international institutions and trade policies studied in International Political Economy and how they have affected people and producers in the developing world.

Dec. 4: Review, Q &A, and discussion for December Exam

IMPORTANT NOTICES

***Please note the university class withdrawal policy: For X/Y classes, the deadline by which a student may withdraw is February 8th. (early deadline: November 9th).**

***Please be advised that instructors and TAs are generally quite familiar with the literature pertaining to the courses that they teach and facilitate. For additional help, aside from your instructor or TA, it is recommended that you contact the [Writing Centre](#) at 494-1963. With these points in mind, please note the following:**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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.

DALHOUSIE 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.
- Papers should be submitted directly to the instructor, or the teaching assistant, or in person to the Political Science office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays only. The instructor cannot assume responsibility for papers otherwise submitted.
- The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's office. 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 need to elaborate that reason in the form of a letter to the chair of the department of Political Science well in advance of the scheduled exam, and the chair will render a decision on the matter.

REQUEST FOR ACCOMODATION:

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.

WRITING CENTRE

Writing expectations at university are higher than you will have experienced at high school (or if you are entering a master's or PhD program, the expectations are higher than at lower levels). The Writing Centre is a Student Service academic unit that supports your writing development. Make an appointment to discuss your writing. Learning more about the writing process and discipline-specific practices and conventions will allow you to adapt more easily to your field of study.

Dalhousie Writing Centre Main Location (Learning Commons, Main Floor) Monday & Tuesday 10-7 Wednesday & Thursday 10 -9 Friday 10 -4 Sunday 12 - 5
At Sexton (Room A108) Wednesday 6-9 pm **Friday 9 am - 12 pm**
At Black Student Advising (4th Floor SUB) Monday 12-2 **Weldon Law Library (Basement – Room 114 F)** Wednesday 6:00-8:00

Book an appointment: Email writingcentre@dal.ca or call 494-1963 or go to the Dalhousie homepage, log on to MyDal, and select the "Learning Resources" tab. You'll see the "Writing Centre" **BOOK AN APPOINTMENT** button.

