

Political Science 1050

Ideas, Politics, People

Prof. Louise Carbert

Tuesday, Thursday 2:30 – 3:45

Office: Hicks Administration Building 359

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1:15 – 2:00, immediately after class, and by appointment

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Overview:

This class is an introduction to major political concepts, ideas, and disputes. It provides a foundation for all further courses in political science. By reference to current political issues, we explore the ideologies of nationalism, liberalism, socialism, conservatism, fascism, feminism, and other political ideas. A unit on political economy elucidates what these ideologies mean in practice. Another unit on political culture examines how these ideologies work out differently in individual nation-states. POLI 1055.03 follows sequentially in January 2013.

Required Textbooks:

1. Mark Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan, Brenda O'Neill, *Introduction to government and politics: A conceptual approach*, edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2010).
2. Mark Charlton and Paul Rowe, eds., *International Development* (Toronto: Nelson, 2008)
3. Articles available on-line through Blackboard Learning System

Grading Scheme:

Term test	4 October	15%
Term test	8 November	15%
Essay assignment	29 November	30%
Final exam	December exam period	40%

1. The **essay assignment** is based on required readings. Detailed instructions are included in this syllabus.
2. The **term tests** are in short-answer / multiple-choice format. The goal of these tests is to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings and understanding the key concepts covered in lectures. They help prepare for the final exam, ensuring that you have acquired a foundation of knowledge from the textbook and lectures.
3. The **December exam** asks you to synthesize, that is to compare and contrast different aspects of the course, in essay format. This exam is scheduled to occur during the formal exam period, after classes are over.

Course schedule

PART I Introduction to the basic concepts of political science

6 September

1. The science of politics (Dickerson, *et al.*, Introduction)
Society, government, and politics (Dickerson, *et al.*, chapter 1)
 - Where do “politics” begin and end?
 - Problem of social cooperation; prisoner’s dilemma
 - Formal and informal systems of analysis
2. Power, legitimacy and authority (Dickerson, *et al.*, chapter 2)
3. Sovereignty, state, and citizenship (Dickerson, *et al.*, chapter 3)
 - John Chant, *The passport package: Rethinking the citizenship benefits of non-resident Canadians* C.D. Howe Institute Backgrounder. No. 99, December 2006.
4. Nations, states, and nationalism (Dickerson *et al.*, chapter 4 and chapter 13)
 - Michael Ignatieff, "A cosmopolitan among the true believers" *Harpers March* 1994.
 - Jerry Muller, "Us and them: The enduring power of ethnic nationalism" *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008.
 - Andrew Coyne, "It may not be much different but it's ours" *National Post* Jan 20, 2003.
 - Ethnic diversity as a cause of conflict? Charlton & Rowe, Debate 13

TERM TEST 4 October

5. Political culture and socialization (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 5)
 - Historical legacies: clash of civilizations, Loyalists, granite archipelago
6. Law (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 6)
7. Constitutionalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 7)
 - Michael Ignatieff, “Lesser Evils” *New York Times* 2 May 2004.

PART II Ideals and ideology

1. Ideology (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 9)
2. Liberalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 10)
3. Conservatism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 11)
 - Stephen Harper, “Rediscovering the right agenda” *Report Magazine* June 2003.
4. Socialism and communism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 12)
5. Feminism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 14)
6. Environmentalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 15)

TERM TEST 8 November

Dalhousie closed 13 November

PART III Ideology in practice: The capitalist state as a peculiar form of government

1. Classification of political systems (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 16)
2. Liberalism *versus* democracy (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 17)
3. How much equality does democracy require in the second gilded age?
 - Robert Frank, "Has rising inequality hurt the middle class?" *Policy Options*, March 2001.
 - Paul Krugman, "For Richer" *New York Times Magazine*, October 20 2002. [://www.pkarchive.org/economy/ForRicher](http://www.pkarchive.org/economy/ForRicher).
 - Kenneth Rogoff, "Technology and inequality" 2011. [://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/rogoff82/](http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/rogoff82/)
4. Capitalism in crisis or business as usual?
 - Amartya Sen, "Capitalism beyond the crisis" *New York Review of Books*, March 26, 2009. [://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2009/mar/26/capitalism-beyond-the-crisis/?pagination=false&printpage=true](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2009/mar/26/capitalism-beyond-the-crisis/?pagination=false&printpage=true)
 - Does globalization help the poor? Charlton & Rowe Debate 4.

20 November ESSAY TUTORIAL

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE 29 November

Last class 4 December

FINAL EXAM to be scheduled during exam period 6 -17 December

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.
- 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.
- 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,

quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see [.studentaccessibility.dal](http://studentaccessibility.dal) for more information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation.

- A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honourarium of \$75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA 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 so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

ESSAY Assignment 1 due on 29 November 2012

Maximum length – 5 pages, double-spaced, 12 pitch font.

Analyse, critique, and evaluate a pair of articles from the syllabus. All articles are either posted to BBL, their url is contained in the syllabus, or are in the *Crosscurrents International Development* textbook.

Papers must be submitted in hard copy only, no faxed or emailed papers will be accepted.

The quality of your analysis rests on your choice of which articles to study as a pair that belongs together and speaks coherently to each other on the same topic. The quality of your analysis further 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 argumentative point.

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

- One paragraph introduction
- 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?

PLAGIARISM

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.

Grading scale

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