

POLI 1100Y:
Introduction to Government and Politics
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:35am - 12:55pm
Computer Science Building, Room 127

Instructor: Marcella Firmini

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:30pm - 2:30pm (or by appointment)

Office: Henry Hicks 358

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**** DROP COURSE DATES: please review dates on the registrar's website ****

Textbook:

- **Politics: An Introduction** - Oxford University Press. (MacLean, George A., and Duncan R. Wood. 2010)
 - Additional required readings as noted in this syllabus.
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Course Synopsis

This is the second term of the introductory class in political science. Picking up from the themes from last semester, we will examine the fundamental ideas and principles of political science and the varied institutions and processes that give them practical expression in everyday life. This class pays special attention to Canada as well as to the major issues of contemporary international politics.

Format

This class will be delivered in lecture format; however, discussion and debate is not only expected, but will be sought and encouraged. Midterms and exams will cover all materials from this course.

Assignments and Grading

There will be four tests throughout the course of the term and one discussion/seminar class. The tests and exams will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. This term is worth 50% of the total grade.

Quiz one: February 12 (worth 5%)

Midterm: February 21 – comprising all course material (worth 15%).

Essay discussion: March 5 (attendance worth 5%)

Quiz two: March 21 – comprising all course material since Feb. 22 (worth 10%)

Final exam: comprising entire course material as per registrar timetable (worth 15%)

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

Request for 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.

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.

Writing Centre

Writing expectations at university are high. 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, 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.

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."

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.

Cell phone and computer etiquette:

- The use of cellular phones (including texting) is not permitted during class.
 - During regular classes, all ringers must be switched to vibrate and, if a call constitutes an emergency, students are asked to exit the classroom and make (or take) the call quietly in the hallway without disturbing others. Students will be allowed to re-enter the classroom once the communication is completed.
 - During quizzes and exams, all phones, computers, and electronic gadgets must be turned off and stored away. No phone calls, texts, or other forms of electronic communication are permitted.
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Course outline:

January 8

This class will recap important themes from the previous semester and answer/address any outstanding questions.

- Second term course structure and expectations
- Review Chapter 1: *Citizens and Canada*, pp. 16-19
- First term notes/chapters

January 10

This class is dedicated to exploring important foundational concepts in political science.

- Chapter 2 – *Finding a Common Vocabulary: Political Concepts*, pp. 24-34

January 15

This class continues to address and explain foundational concepts.

- Chapter 2 – *Finding a Common Vocabulary: Political Concepts*, pp. 34-40
- Grace Skogstad (2003): *Who Governs? Who Should Govern? Political Authority and Legitimacy in Canada in the 21st Century*. Canadian Journal of Political Science, vol. 36, 5 (pp. 955-973)

January 17

This class continues to address and explain foundational concepts.

- Chapter 2 – *Finding a Common Vocabulary: Political Concepts*, pp. 40-43

January 22

This class will begin to address the fundamentals of political philosophy and the ideas of important political theorists.

- Chapter 3 – *Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology*, pp.47-55 & pp.66-77
- Review Chapter 6: *Quebec and Canadian Federalism*, pp. 155-166
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1987): *Say goodbye to the Dream of one Canada* – Toronto Star
- Rene Levesque (1976): *For an Independent Quebec* – 54 Foreign Affairs 734 (pp. 741-42)

January 24

This class will continue to address the fundamentals of political philosophy and the ideas of important political theorists.

- Chapter 3 – *Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology*, pp.55-66

January 28

This class will continue to address the fundamentals of political philosophy and the ideas of important political theorists.

- Chapter 3 – *Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology* (pp. 48-77)
- Recap of *Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology* concepts

January 31

This class will to address political participation, elections, and parties.

- Chapter 7 – *Political Participation: Elections and Parties*, pp.162-169
- Stephen Harper (2003): *Rediscovering the Right Agenda*. Report Magazine – June 2003

February 5

This class will continue to address political participation, elections, and parties.

- Chapter 7 – *Political Participation: Elections and Parties*, pp. 169-175
- Ken Carty (2006): *The Shifting Place of Political Parties in Public Life*. Choices, vol. 12, 4 (pp. 3-11)

February 7

This class will continue to address political participation, elections, and parties.

- *Political Participation: Elections and Parties*, pp. 175-181
- William Cross and Lisa Young (2006): *Are Canadian Political Parties Empty Vessels?* Choices, vol. 12, 4 (pp. 14-27)
- Recap and questions in preparation for quiz.

February 12

- Quiz worth 5%

February 14

- Quiz review and questions.

This class will examine what is termed 'developed' states.

- Chapter 9 – *Politics in Developed States*, pp. 212-217

February 19

This class will examine what is termed 'developed' states.

- Chapter 9 – *Politics in Developing States*, pp. 218-240
- Jennifer M. Welsh (2004): *Canada in the 21st Century: Beyond Dominion and Middle Power*. *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 93: 376, pp. 583-293

February 21:

- MIDTERM EXAM comprising all course material worth 15%.

March 5

- Review midterm and questions
- Paper discussions

Remember: we will address the main point of the authors and the significance of each point. Attendance and participation worth 5%.

Required Readings:

- *The New Treason of the Intellectuals* – Pierre Elliott Trudeau, in *Federalism and the French Canadians* (on reserve in the Killam library).
- *Canada and the Multinational State* – Kenneth McRoberts. *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (December 2001), vol. 34, 4, pp 683-713.

March 7

This class will examine what is termed 'developing' states.

- Chapter 10 – *Politics in Developing States*, pp. 244-253

March 12

This class will examine what is termed 'developing' states.

- Chapter 10 – *Politics in Developing States*, pp. 253-256

March 14

This class will examine what is termed 'developing' states.

- Chapter 10 – *Politics in Developing States*, pp. 257-269
- Seymour Martin Lipset (1994): *The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited: 1993 Presidential Address*. *American Sociological Review*, vol. 59, 1, pp.1-22

March 18:

This class will provide a detailed overview of international politics and foreign policy.

- Chapter 11 – *International politics and Foreign Policy*, pp. 274-289

March 21:

- Quiz comprising all course material worth 10%

March 26:

This class will provide a detailed overview of international politics and foreign policy.

- Chapter 11 – *International politics and Foreign Policy*, pp. 290-294
- Online research on Canada's history with terrorism (domestic and international) and Canada's role in the post 9/11 'war on terror'. An overview of events, motivations, and outcomes of various incidents should be compiled and brought to class. Students will be asked to elaborate and discuss on what their research has revealed.

March 28:

This class will provide a detailed overview of international politics and foreign policy.

- Chapter 11 – *International politics and Foreign Policy*, pp. 295-302

April 2:

This class will provide an overview of International Security.

- Chapter 12 – *International Security*, pp. 306-324

April 5:

- Recap of International Security chapter
- Chapter 12 – *International Security*, pp. 306-324
- Chapter 14 – *Conclusion*, pp. 355-365
- Concluding thoughts

FINAL EXAM comprising entire course material as per registrar timetable:

- worth 15%

! Have a great summer vacation!