

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1050 SECTION 1 CRN 12264

IDEAS, POLITICS, PEOPLE

PROFESSOR LOUISE CARBERT

TUESDAY / THURSDAY 2:35 – 3:45 HENRY HICKS ACADEMIC 212

Office: Hicks Administration Building 359

Office Hours: Tuesday, immediately after class, and by appointment

Tel: 902.494.6628 Email: [louise.carbert@dal.ca](mailto:louise.carbert@dal.ca) (most reliable way to reach me)

**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 define basic concepts and explore the ideologies of nationalism, liberalism, socialism, conservatism, fascism, and other political ideas. A unit on political culture examines how these ideologies work out differently in individual nation-states. A final unit on inequality elucidates what these ideologies mean in practice.

POLI 1055.03 follows sequentially in January 2015.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Mark Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan, Brenda O’Neill, *Introduction to government and politics: A conceptual approach*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2010).
2. Articles available on-line through Blackboard Learning System. Abbreviated as “BLS.”
3. Abridged sets of slides from lecture posted to BBL. The abridged sets do not include images and other material.

Grading Scheme		
Assignment	Due date	Value (%)
BLS test 1, textbook chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	midnight 1 October	10
BLS test 2, textbook chapters 5, 6, 7, 8	midnight 3 November	10
BLS test 3, chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	midnight 8 December	15
Essay (instructions in syllabus)	In class, 1 December	25
Final exam	December exam period	40

1. The **essay assignment** is based on required readings. Detailed instructions are included in this syllabus. No additional readings beyond the syllabus are required or permitted.
2. The **December exam** asks you to synthesize, that is to compare and contrast across different units. It is scheduled to occur during the exam period, after classes are over. It comprises two essay questions.
3. The **BBL assignments** are multiple-choice format. They are done on-line, via the Blackboard Learning System. The goal of these tests is to ensure that you understand the key concepts. They prepare you for the final exam, ensuring that you have acquired a foundation of knowledge from the textbook. These assignments will stay open for the duration between them. Lectures may not correspond precisely to the BBL due dates. Some students will do the assignments, ahead of lecture. Other students will delay until near the due date, after lecture. Your time is yours to organize. The assignments will be graded immediately on receipt, but the correct answers will not be revealed until after the due date.

# COURSE SCHEDULE

## **PART I Basic concepts of political science**

10 September

1. Society, government, and politics (Dickerson, *et al.*, Introduction, chapter 1)
  - Where do “politics” begin and end?
  - Formal and informal systems of analysis
  - Problem of social cooperation; prisoner’s dilemma
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.

**STUDYING FOR SUCCESS WORKSHOP 18 September** <http://www.dal.ca/sfs>

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.

**BBL ASSIGNMENT 1, CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3, 4 DUE midnight 1 October**

5. Historical legacies at work to socialize people into political culture (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 5)
  - Samuel Huntington, "The West unique, not universal" *Foreign Affairs* 1996 3, 75:6, 28-46.
  - John Owen IV From Calvin to the Caliphate, "What Europe’s Wars of Religion tell us about the modern Middle East" *Foreign Affairs* 2015 s 2015, 94:3, 77-89..
6. Law and Constitutionalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 6, chapter 7)
  - Michael Ignatieff, "Lesser Evils" *New York Times* 2 May 2004.
2. International politics: cooperation in an anarchic world (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 8)

**BBL ASSIGNMENT 2, CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7, 8, DUE midnight 3 November**

## **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)
4. Socialism and communism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 12)
5. Fascism and nationalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 13)
6. Feminism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 14)
7. Environmentalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 15)

**Remembrance Day Dalhousie closed 12 November**

## **PART III Ideology in practice as political economy:**

- Robert Frank, "Has rising inequality hurt the middle class?" *Policy Options*, March 2001.
- Robert Putnam, "Crumbling American dreams" *New York Times Opinionator* August 2013.  
[http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/03/crumbling-american-dreams/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/03/crumbling-american-dreams/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0)
- Emily Badger, "The terrible loneliness of growing up poor in Robert Putnam’s America" *Washington Post*. 2015.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2015/03/06/the-terrible-loneliness-of-growing-up-poor-in-robert-putnams-america/>

- Paul Krugman, "For Richer" *New York Times Magazine*, 2002. <http://www.pkarchive.org/economy/ForRicher.html>
- Kenneth Rogoff, "Technology and inequality" 2011. <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/rogoff82/English>

**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE 1 December**

**Last class 8 December**

**BBL ASSIGNMENT 3, CHAPTERS 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 DUE midnight 8 December**

**FINAL EXAM to be scheduled during exam period 10-20 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 are submitted directly to the instructor, the teaching assistant, or to the Political Science office or drop box. 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 and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca) for information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation. A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium of \$75/course. 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 attend class.

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

## **ESSAY DUE ON 1 DECEMBER 2015**

**Maximum length – 5 pages or 1500 words, double-spaced, 11 pitch font.**

Analyse, critique, and evaluate a pair of articles from the syllabus. All articles are either posted to BBL or their url is contained in the syllabus. Here is your choice of pairs of articles to compare and contrast.

### ***PAIR 1: Do historical legacies diverge or converge?***

- Samuel Huntington, "The West unique, not universal" *Foreign Affairs* 1996 3, 75:6, 28-46.
- John Owen IV, "From Calvin to the Caliphate, "What Europe's Wars of Religion tell us about the modern Middle East" *Foreign Affairs* 2015, 94:3, 77-89.

### ***PAIR 2: Democracy and (in)equality***

- Robert Frank, "Has rising inequality hurt the middle class?" *Policy Options*, March 2001.
- Robert Putnam, C.B. Frederick, K. Snellman, *Growing class gaps in social connectedness among American youth*. Cambridge: Harvard Kennedy School of Government; 2012.

### ***PAIR 3: World order***

- Barry Posen "Pull back: The case for a less activist foreign policy" *Foreign Affairs* 92:1, 2013.
- Stephen Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, William Wohlforth, "Lean forward: In defense of American engagement" *Foreign Affairs* 92:1, 2013.

Papers must be submitted in hard copy only, no faxed or emailed papers will be accepted. No title page necessary, so long as your name and such is on the first page. I prefer in-text citation (author surname, year of publication, page number or paragraph number from html). Whether you call this MLA, APA, or whatever style is no matter to me.

The quality of your analysis 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 1500-word 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, with signposting and thesis statement
- 1.5 page summary of first article
- 1.5 page summary of second article
- 1 page compare and contrast, critique, evaluation. Which article do you think is correct, and which article is wrong?
- Bibliography or list of references. Will be very short, so it need not be on a separate page.

## **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.