

POLI 1050.2 – Governments and Democracy
Chemistry 125, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05 – 11:25
Fall 2015 - Dalhousie University

<u>Professor:</u>	Marcella Firmini
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Wednesdays 1pm – 2:30pm
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Course Synopsis: “This course 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, and other political ideas. A unit on political economy elucidates what these ideologies mean in practice. POLI 1055.02 follows sequentially.” (Dalhousie University)

Course objectives are as follows:

- Study and understand concepts related to the study of political science including the most important theoretical paradigms and “practical” outcomes pivotal to the study and analysis of politics.
- Development of students’ critical thinking skills. The goal is to enhance the ability to critically understand and assess reading materials, and
- Refine writing skills by learning how to substantiate an argument and articulate clearly the content of it.

Required Text: *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* by J. Brodie & S. Rein (5th Ed.)

Required Readings: Posted to BBL/OWL when possible, otherwise on reserve at the Killiam Library. Students are expected to have all readings read and critically assessed before each class.

Evaluation Opportunities: There will be five opportunities to evaluate your progress throughout the course. Each will be worth given percentages, and they are as follows:

1. Test One - Oct. 13: 15%
2. Midterm – Nov. 19: 20%
3. Writing Assignments: 30% (2 sessions worth 15% each).
DEADLINES: Oct. 29; Nov. 26.
4. Final Exam (registrar’s calendar): 35%

Test one, the midterm, and the final exam will consist of a possible combination of multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Writing Assignments– This project is aimed at further developing and refining your **critical thinking** skills. You will assess critically an article from the news by using theories you’ve learned. The findings will be presented in one *written review* according to criteria listed on a separate document posted to BBL.

Course ‘Drop Dates’ can be found here: http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

Grading scheme:

As per the Dalhousie University academic calendar.

- No alternative dates for exams will be set except for serious medical conditions
 - Always keep electronic or back-up copies of your paper
 - Although no grade is assigned for attendance, lectures will cover large portions of material that **will not** be posted on OWL.
 - No 'late penalties' are assigned because 'late' papers will not be accepted unless the failure to present is justifiable and verifiable through appropriate documentation. If you are encountering difficulties meeting your deadlines, approach the instructor well **before** the submission date to discuss your situation.
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Student Accessibility and Accommodation

Students may request accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams. Requests should be made to the *Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation* (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term. Please see http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/accessibility/accommodation-statement-for-course-syllabus.html

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism (academicintegrity.dal.ca). ***Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.*** Plagiarism is considered a **very 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.

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

RULES and POLICY REGARDING USE OF TECHNOLOGY/ELECTRONICS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS.

THE POWER OF IDEAS

September:

10: Course Expectations (no readings assigned)

- Syllabus review
- Expectations and General Introductions

15-17: Power & Politics...and the Power of Political Ideas

- Chapter One: 2-16
- **OWL**: *What is Politics?* (Ch. 1: Politics – A. Heywood, Palgrave, 4th Ed. pp. 1-26)

22-24-29: Greece and Greek “δημοκρατία”

- **OWL:** *What is Political Philosophy?* (Ch. 3 excerpt: Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology – MacLean & Wood, Oxford, 2nd Ed. pp. 54-64)
- Chapter Three: 31-34
- **OWL:** Pericles: *Funeral Oration*

October:

Oct 1-6-8: Rome and Roman “Res Publica”

- Chapter Two: 34-35
- **OWL:** *Republicanism & Democracy* (Ch. 3: B. Crick, Oxford, pp. 32-42)
- *Recommended Reading on OWL: Excerpt on Citizenship (pp. 1950-1956)*
- *Recommended Reading on OWL: Citizenship Reading PDF sheet*

• 13: QUIZ

15: Renaissance, Rinascimento, Rebirth

- Readings posted to BBL under the headings ‘*Renaissance 1*’ and ‘*Renaissance 2*’.

20-22-27: The Enlightenment: ‘cogito ergo sum’! & Liberalism

- *What is Political Philosophy?* (Ch. 3 excerpt: Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology – MacLean & Wood, Oxford, 2nd Ed. pp. 64-69)
- Chapter Two: 17-30
- Chapter Three: 35-41 & 60-76

29: Revolutions that Changed the World - the Americans and the French

- *Republicanism & Democracy* (Ch. 3: B. Crick, Oxford, pp. 51-54)

• 29th: WRITING DUE

November:

Nov. 3-5: Revolutions that Changed the World - the Americans and the French

- **OWL:** American Declaration of Independence
- **OWL:** M. Robespierre Speech

Nov. 10-17: Conservatism

- **OWL:** link on ‘Conservatism’
- **OWL:** Edmund Burke ‘Reflections on the Revolution in France’
- **OWL:** *What is Political Philosophy?* (Ch. 3 excerpt: Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology – MacLean & Wood, Oxford, 2nd Ed. pp. 75-77)

• 19: MIDTERM

Nov. 24-26: Socialism, Romanticism, and other systems of thought

- Chapter Four: pp. 49-53
- *What is Political Philosophy?* (Ch. 3 excerpt: Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology – MacLean & Wood, Oxford, 2nd Ed. pp. 70-73)
- Chapter Four: pp. 45-49 & 53-59
- **OWL:** *What is Political Philosophy?* (Ch. 3 excerpt: Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology – MacLean & Wood, Oxford, 2nd Ed. pp. 77-83)

- 26th: WRITING DUE

Dec. 1-3: Nationalism

- **OWL:** *What is Political Philosophy?* (Ch. 3 excerpt: Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology – MacLean & Wood, Oxford, 2nd Ed. pp. 73-75)
- Chapter Sixteen: 226-240
- **OWL:** Flanagan & Alfred Readings (Chapter Excerpts)

Dec. 8: Ideas and their 'governments' & RECAP

- **OWL:** *Classification of Political Systems* (Ch. 16: An Introduction to Government & Politics: Dickerson & Flanagan, 9th ed. pp. 209-215)
- Chapter Fifteen: 211-225

- ❖ FINAL EXAM: CONSULT REGISTRAR'S TIMETABLE