

Dalhousie University
Department of Political Science

POLI 1002: Introduction to Government and Politics II
Winter 2023

Class times: Monday and Wednesday from 10:05AM-11:25AM

Classroom Location: Sir James Dunn Building 101 (Lecture)

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor (and TA) Information

Instructor: Dr. Rachael Johnstone (she/her)

Office: Henry Hicks, Room #355

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:30AM-12:30PM (or by appointment)

Email: regjohns@dal.ca

TA	Austin Lees (he/him)	Xinyu Gong	Caira Mohamed
Email	Austin.Lees@dal.ca	Xinyu.Gong@dal.ca	Caira.Mohamed@dal.ca
Office	TBA	TBA	TBA
Office Hours	TBA	TBA	TBA

Email Etiquette

Email is the best way to get in touch with the professor or your TAs outside of scheduled office hours. Emails should be used for brief questions that can be answered quickly. You professor and TAs will try to respond to all email inquiries within 24 hours during the work week (Monday-Friday). If students want to discuss course material, assignments, or another matter in any detail, they should see the professor or TAs during office hours.

Always use your Dalhousie email account to send emails (messages from other accounts do not always go through).

Include the subject line “POLI 1002”

Address emails to the professor or TA (i.e. Dear Dr. Johnstone)

Sign off with your first and last name and student number

In the event of changes to the class schedule (for instance, class cancellations) or other unforeseen situations, an update will be posted on the class Brightspace page.

Course Description

This course, together with POLI 1001, is designed as a general introduction to the study of politics. This course will introduce you to the institutions and processes that animate politics and government. It begins with an exploration of the roles and responsibilities of the branches of government (executives, legislatures, courts, and bureaucracies) before turning to issues of representations (elections, the party system, social movements, and interest groups) and the role of rhetoric and communication (media, freedom of expression, and the problem of bullshit) in politics. The scope of this course is broad but maintains a significant focus on these issues as they relate to the study of Canadian politics.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites and/or other Restrictions

Please ensure that you are registered in the appropriate number of 1000-level Political Science courses. The code for 1000 level courses contains a 1000 number (e.g. POLI 1060). You can enroll in 1000-level Political Science courses for a maximum of 9 credits. If you exceed that number, the additional courses you take will not be counted towards your Political Science degree. Also, pay attention to the course exclusions. Some courses cannot be taken in combination with others. For POLI1002, the exclusions are: POLI1103Y, POLI 1500, POLI 1050, POLI 1055, POLI 1060, POLI 1065.

This course also has restrictions. Specifically, POLI 1001.03 and POLI 1002.03 must be taken in sequence and in the same academic year.

Learning Management System Site Information

Once you are enrolled in the class, the POLI 1002 Brightspace page can be found by logging on to the Brightspace page (<https://dal.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) using your NetID.

Class Format

This class is an in-person lecture with some discussion and group-focused in-class work.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Describe the influence of political institutions and processes in shaping political life
- Demonstrate an understanding of the implications of rhetoric and communication for politics
- Hone your basic research and argumentation skills
- Improve facility in written communication for diverse audiences
- Foster a habit of thoughtful, constructive participation in class

Required Text(s)

You do not need to purchase any texts for this course. All the course readings can be accessed online through the course Brightspace page (most in the form of library e-reserves, but some as external links).

Although it is not a required resource, I do draw on Marc Menard's 2020 book *Political Argument: A Guide to Research, Writing, and Debating* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) for the skills sessions in this course. Student's may find it a useful reference when preparing assignments.

Course Schedule

University holidays and important dates from the University calendar such as withdrawal and drop dates can be found here: https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html.

Modules	Topics	Readings
	Week 1: Introductory Class	Welcome to the class! No assigned readings. Skill Workshop: Research and writing refresher
Institutions	Week 2: Executives and Legislatures I	Aucoin, Peter, Mark D. Jarvis, and Lori Turnbull. 2011. "Responsible Government: Theory and Practice." In <i>Democratizing the Constitution: Reforming Responsible Government</i> , 29-73. Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications. Guest speaker: Lisa Lachance, MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island (January 16 th)
	Week 3: Executives and Legislatures II	No assigned readings. Guest speaker: David Hastings, Assistant Clerk, Nova Scotia Legislature (January 25 th) TA Skills Workshop: Developing a research question Research Essay Topic Approval Due
	Week 4: The	McLachlin, Beverley Hon. 2001. "Courts, Legislatures and Executives in the

Modules	Topics	Readings
	Constitution and the Judiciary	Post-Charter Era.” In <i>Judicial power and Canadian democracy</i> , Eds. Paul Howe and Peter H. Russell, 63-72. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press.
	Week 5: The Bureaucracy and Policy Making	Clarke, Amanda. 2020. “The Civil Service.” In <i>Canadian Politics</i> , Ed. James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon, 105-122. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. TA Skills Workshop: Thinking critically
Representation	Week 6: Elections	Tolley, Erin. 2017. “The Electoral System and Parliament’s Diversity Problem: In Defense of the Wrongfully Accused” In <i>Should we change how we vote?: Evaluating Canada’s Electoral System</i> , Eds. Andrew Potter, Daniel Weinstock, and Peter Loewen, 111-125. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press. Guest speaker: Representative from Elections Nova Scotia (February 6 th) Research Essay Due
	Week 7: Winter Study Break	No Class
	Week 8: The Party System	Carty, Kenneth R. 2004. “Parties As Franchise System: The Stratarchical Organization.” <i>Party Politics</i> 10(1): 723-745. TA Skills Workshop: Reading and responding to feedback
	Week 9: Interest Groups and Social Movements	Smith, Miriam. 2014. “Identity and Opportunity: The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Movement.” In <i>Group politics and social movements in Canada</i> , 179-200. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Skills: Distinguishing good arguments from bad arguments
	Week 10: Diversity and Representation	Campbell, Rosie, and Sarah Childs. 2017. “The (M)otherhood Trap: Reconsidering Sex, Gender, and Legislative Recruitment.” In <i>Mothers & Others: The Role of Parenthood in Politics</i> , Eds. Melanee Thomas and Amanda Bittner, 25-45. Vancouver: UBC Press. Skills: Arguing Persuasively Short Research Essay Due
Rhetoric and Communication	Week 11: Media and Communication	No Class on Monday Waddell, Christopher. 2020. “Digital Journalism: The Canadian Media’s Struggle for Relevance.” In <i>Digital politics in Canada: promises and realities</i> , Eds. Tamara A. Small and Harold J. Jansen, 159-180. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Modules	Topics	Readings
		Skills: Writing for the public
	Week 12: Freedom of Expression	Moon, Richard. 2022. "Does Freedom of Expression Have a Future?" In <i>Dilemmas of Free Expression</i> , ed. Emmett Macfarlane, 15-34. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Op-Ed and Tweet Due
	Week 13: Bullshit	Radnitz, Scott. 2022. "Why Democracy Fuels Conspiracy Theories." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 33(2): 147-161.

Course Assessments

Assignments descriptions and rubrics are available on the course Brightspace page. All assignments that need to be uploaded to Brightspace are due at 11:59PM on the due date.

Assessment	%	Deadline
Research Essay Question Approval	5	January 27 th
Research Essay	30	February 17 th
Short Research Essay	25	March 17 th
Op-Ed and Tweet	10	March 31 st
Final Exam	30	April exam period (the exam schedule is posted by the university on February 1 st)

- The final exam will take place during the formal exam period. This is a two-hour exam that will have an essay component and may also contain short answer and multiple-choice questions.
- You will get a one-time, 2% bonus on the final exam if you attend your TA's office hours before the winter study break and ask a substantive question about the material or ask for help with an assignment.
- The conversion scale for numeric to letter grades, as well as the university scale descriptors, are available in the Grading Practices Policy at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html.

Submission of Assessments

All assignments are submitted and returned using the drop boxes on the course Brightspace page. Assignments must be submitted in either .doc or docx format. All Dalhousie students have access to free Microsoft Word software through Microsoft Office. Instructions about how to download this software can be found through the Information Technology Services website (<https://www.dal.ca/dept/its.html>). Documents submitted as PDFs or through other programs, such as Pages, will be penalized -5% and may not receive in-text comments.

All assignments, except for the final exam, will be graded and returned using Brightspace. Final exams are not returned to students. If students wish to review their exam, they need to arrange to do so through the professor or their assigned TA for the course.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late assignments are penalised at 5% per day for a period of 7 days (inclusive of weekends and holidays). Failing to submit an assignment within that period will result in a failure for that assignment. Extensions on assignments may be granted in exceptional circumstances. Please note that technological issues are not considered to be a valid reason for late submission. It is the student's responsibility to make appropriate back-ups and to submit assignments in the requested format.

If you require an assignment extension, please fill out the [Student Declaration of Absence](#) form (available on the course Brightspace page under the Assessments tab) and submit it through the Brightspace drop box. In the box marked “Type of missed or late academic requirement,” make sure you offer a brief explanation for your request in addition to the name of the assignment for which you are requesting an extension. The drop box will send your professor an email notification when a form has been submitted and you should expect to hear if your extension has been granted within two working days. Please do not send these forms via email. Managing multiple requests from one student for the same assignment will slow down response time.

The Student Declaration of Absence form is for absences of 3 days or less. In cases of longer absences, please contact your professor directly via email as soon as possible. Also note that this form does not apply to final exams.

You can submit a maximum of two forms in this course before medical or other documentation is required.

Grade Appeals

Any errors of addition should be raised immediately with your TA or professor.

If you would like to discuss the details of an assignment or your grade after it is returned you are welcome to do so, but **you must wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned before contacting your TA or professor**. While asking for an explanation of your grade is perfectly fine, asking for a re-grade requires greater effort on the part of the student. If a student is concerned that an assignment was not graded appropriately, the student should first meet with the TA who marked the work. To request a review of an assignment, the student must provide a 1-page explanation of why the assignment was improperly graded that engages with the comments provided by the TA. The explanation, the original assignment, and a clean copy of the assignment should be submitted to the student’s TA via email no later than **2 weeks** after the assignment was made available for return. If the student is unsatisfied after consulting and discussing the matter with the TA, the assignment will be passed on to the professor for final grading. Note: Grades may be either raised, stay the same, or lowered on appeal.

Recording Lectures

Lectures for this course are live and not recorded. Students may not make recording of lectures, either video or audio, unless recordings are part of an approved accommodation that has first been discussed with the professor.

Technology in the Classroom

Students are welcome to use electronic devices in class, but only for legitimate classroom purposes, such as taking notes, accessing readings, or working on in-class activities. If these devices are misused or are otherwise distracting, either to the professor or to other students, the student will be asked to put away their device(s) away and future use of these devices may be prohibited.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. <https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog>

University Statements

- Territorial Acknowledgement:

Dalhousie University is located in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

- Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. (read more: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

- Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students on the Halifax campus who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact:

- the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro.
- the Student Success Centre in Truro for courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture (<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html>)

Please note that your classroom may contain accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, undisturbed, so that students who require their use will be able to fully participate.

- Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. (read more: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html)

- Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity and dedicated to achieving equity. We are committed to being a respectful and inclusive community where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our university prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

(read more: <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

- Fair Dealing policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie.

(read more: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html)

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- Dalhousie Grading Practices Policy
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Grade Appeal Process
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html
- Sexualized Violence Policy
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html (Halifax)
<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre/academic-support/advisingdalac.html> (Truro)

Syllabus last updated: January 5, 2022