

Political Science 1050 Ideas, Politics, People

Professor Louise Carbert Tuesday, Thursday 2:30 – 3:45

Office: Hicks Administration Building 359

Office Hours: Tuesday, 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 define basic concepts and explore the ideologies of nationalism, liberalism, socialism, conservatism, fascism, and other political ideas. Another 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 2014.

Required Textbooks:

1. Mark Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan, Brenda O’Neill, *Introduction to government and politics: A conceptual approach*, 9th edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2010).
2. Reading package to accompany textbook. Available as podcast.
3. Articles available on-line through Blackboard Learning System.

Grading Scheme		
Assignment	Due date	Value (%)
BBL assignment 1, chapters 1, 2, 3	midnight 23 September	10
BBL assignment 2, chapters 4, 6, 7,13	midnight 21 October	10
BBL assignment 3, chapter 5	midnight 28 October	5
BBL assignment 4, chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15	midnight 25 November	15
Essay (instructions in syllabus)	28 November	30
Final exam	December exam period	30

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 **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 understanding 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 will not correspond precisely to the BBL due dates. Some students may want to do the assignments, ahead of lecture. Other students will want to 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.

3. The **December exam** asks you to synthesize, that is to compare and contrast across different units, in essay format. It is scheduled to occur during the exam period, after classes are over.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I Basic concepts of political science

5 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 19 September <http://www.dal.ca/sfs>

BBL ASSIGNMENT, CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3 DUE midnight 23 September

4. Law and Constitutionalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 6, chapter 7)
 - Michael Ignatieff, “Lesser Evils” *New York Times* 2 May 2004
 - Jeremy Rabkin, “The lesser evil is not good enough” *Claremont Review of Books*. Winter 2005.
5. 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, CHAPTERS 4, 6, 7, 13, DUE midnight 21 October

6. Historical legacies at work to socialize people into political culture (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 5)
 - Barber, Benjamin R. “Jihad vs. McWorld.” *Atlantic* Mar. 1992: 53+.
 - Huntington, Samuel P. “The clash of civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72.3 (1993)
 - Robert Putnam, “The decline of civil society: how come? So what?” *Optimum* Summer 1996.
 - Is Canadian political culture unique or generically Western? Loyalism & granite archipelago

BBL ASSIGNMENT, CHAPTER 5, DUE midnight 28 October

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. Feminism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 14)
6. Environmentalism (Dickerson *et al.* chapter 15)

Remembrance Day Dalhousie closed 12 November

BBL ASSIGNMENT, CHAPTERS 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 DUE midnight 25 November

PART III Ideology in practice

1. How much equality does democracy require in the second gilded age?
 - Robert Frank, "Has rising inequality hurt the middle class?" *Policy Options*, March 2001.
 - Christopher Lasch, "The revolt of the elites" *Harper's Magazine*; Nov 1994; 289, 1734, 39
 - Paul Krugman, "For Richer" *New York Times Magazine*, October 20 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 28 November

Last class 3 December

FINAL EXAM to be scheduled during exam period 5 -16 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 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 for 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 DUE ON 28 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 or their url is contained in the syllabus. Here is your choice of pairs of articles to compare and contrast.

PAIR 1:

- Michael Ignatieff, "Lesser Evils" *New York Times* 2 May 2004
- Jeremy Rabkin, "The lesser evil is not good enough" *Claremont Review of Books*. Winter 2005.

PAIR 2

- Michael Ignatieff, "A cosmopolitan among the true believers" *Harpers* March 1994.
- Jerry Muller, "Us and them: The enduring power of ethnic nationalism" *Foreign Affairs* 2008.

PAIR 3

- Benjamin Barber. 1992. "Jihad vs. McWorld." *Atlantic* Mar. 1992: 53.
- Samuel Huntington. 1993. "The clash of civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72.3.

PAIR 4

- Robert Putnam, "The decline of civil society: how come? So what?" *Optimum* Summer 1996.
- Christopher Lasch, "The revolt of the elites" *Harper's Magazine*; Nov 1994; 289, 1734, 39

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.

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, 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. Bottom line: 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.