

POLI 1100:
Introduction to Politics and Government: Political Worlds
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:35-12:55

Lead Instructor: David Black
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:00, or by appointment
Office: Henry Hicks 301A
Email: blackd@dal.ca

Course Synopsis

This is an introductory class in political science. Through the research and teaching interests of 10 Professors in the Political Science department, you will be exposed to a range of key issues and approaches that animate both our own research and the diverse 'worlds' of politics. David Black is the main contact person for the course. The course will be divided into four broad themes – Foundations: Democracy, Human Rights, and Political Economy; World Politics I: Diplomacy, Conflict, and Cooperation; World Politics II: Inequality, Development, and International Organization; and New Issues in Politics: Participation, Environment, and Sport. Dates and topics are listed below. The regular class lectures are held during the Tuesday and Thursday time slots. Roughly every second week, there will be *either* a special guest lecture *or* a review session, to help you prepare for the class tests.

Course Readings

Several topics will be supported by "Very Short Introduction" books from Oxford University Press, available from the Dalhousie Bookstore as part of a four-volume "bundle". The online readings will be posted on the class OWL site. It is **very important** to keep up with class readings in order to gain the full benefit of the class lectures. A separate list of class readings by week and topic will be circulated and posted on the OWL site.

Assignments and Grading

There will be four **tests** throughout the course of the year, each worth 20% of the final grade. They will consist of several short essay questions. They will test you on material from class lectures and assigned readings.

Test 1: October 24

Test 2: December 3

Test 3: February 13

Test 4: April 3

In addition, students will be required to write a **reflective commentary** on one guest lecture or panel discussion each semester, worth 10% each for a total of 20%.

Reflective Commentaries should be 3-4 double-spaced pages (750-1000 words) in length. They should be written in clear and compelling prose. They should:

- summarize key points from the speakers' presentations.
- critically analyze strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented
- identify key lessons of the presentation(s) for students of politics.

Commentaries will be evaluated on the basis of the clarity and quality of the writing, and depth and insight of critiques and lessons drawn. They *should be* submitted within a week of the presentation on which they are based. They *must be* submitted no later than the last class of the semester.

In Summary, your grade will be arrived at as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Tests x 4 | 80% |
| Reflective commentary x 2 | 20% |

Attendance will be monitored. Most importantly, regular attendance at *all* sessions is the best way to ensure that you are prepared for tests, and is essential for the completion of reflective commentaries on special guest sessions.

Please also remember that for X/Y classes, the deadline by which a student may withdraw is February 3rd, 2014.

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.

Requests for Student 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.

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

Fall Term (September 5-December 3)

Part I: Foundations: Democracy, Political Economy, Human Rights

September

David Black

Political Science: Introducing Core Concepts

- September 5, 10, 12

Katherine Fierlbeck (k.fierlbeck@dal.ca)

Democracy and Democratic Theory

- September 17, 24, 26

Thursday September 19th: guest lecturers on urban democracy – Halifax Regional Councillors Jennifer Watts and Waye Mason

Please note: this will be the first of two focus opportunities for your Term 1 Reflective Commentary

October

Margaret Denike (m.denike@dal.ca)
Human Rights and Sexual Politics

- October 1, 3, 8

Thursday, October 10th: review session and discussion

Robert Finbow (Robert.finbow@dal.ca)
Political Economy and the State

- October 15, 17, 22

Thursday, October 24th: **Test #1**

Part II: World Politics (1) – Diplomacy, Leadership, Rivalry, Regionalism

November

Brian Bow (brian.bow@dal.ca)
International Relations and Diplomacy
-October 29, 31, November 5

Thursday, November 7th – Guest Presentation by US Consul-General Richard Riley on
Canada-US relations

*Please note: this will be your second and FINAL focus opportunity for your Term 1
Reflective Commentary*

David Beitelman (d.beitelman@dal.ca)
Global Leadership: the US and China in comparative perspective
- November 12, 14, 19

Ruben Zaiotti (r.zaiotti@dal.ca)
The European Union
-November 21, 26
-November 28: Review and Test Preparation Session

Tuesday, December 3rd: **Test #2**

Remember to submit first reflective commentary NO LATER THAN 3 December

WINTER TERM (7 January-8 April)

Part III: World Politics (2) – Inequality, Development, International Organization

January

David Black (blackd@dal.ca)
Politics of Inequality and Development
-January 7, 9, 14

Thursday, January 16th: Special Guest Lecture by Alice Musabende - Rwanda: Genocide and Beyond
Please note: this will be the first of two focus opportunities for your Term 2 Reflective Commentary

Peter Arthur (parthur@dal.ca)
Development and Democratization in Africa
-January 21, 23, 28
- Thursday, January 30: Review and test preparation

February

Ruben Zaiotti (r.zaiotti@dal.ca)
International Security, International Organization and the UN
-February 4, 6, 11

Thursday, February 13th: Test #3

READING WEEK

PART IV : Political Participation and New Issues

Michelle Coffin (michelle.coffin@dal.ca)
Political Parties and Pressure Groups
-February 25, 27, March 4

March

Thursday, March 6th: Panel Discussion with young Nova Scotian political leaders: why participate in the electoral process?

Please note: this will be your second and FINAL focus opportunity for your Term 2 Reflective Commentary

David Black (blackd@dal.ca)

Sport and Politics

-March 11, 13, 18

-Thursday, 20 March: review and test preparation discussion

Anders Hayden (anders.hayden@dal.ca)

Politics of the Environment

-March 25, 27, April 1

Thursday, April 3rd: Test #4

Remember to submit second reflective commentary NO LATER THAN 3 April