

POLI 1055: Governments and Democracy

Winter 2014

Mondays and Wednesdays 13:05-14:25

Instructor: Dr. Carlos Pessoa

Room Location: Studley Campus, CHEMISTRY 226

Office Location: Henry Hicks, 354

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: cr966457@dal.ca

DESCRIPTION

We start this course with an introduction to the basic concepts of political science. We look at the various definitions of politics, and approaches to politics and learn how to differentiate between State, Government and Nation. We turn, then, to political processes, where we discuss political culture, party systems and types of political parties, as well as political civic actions.

The focus then shifts to the core areas of government. We discuss the executive, legislative and judiciary powers, examining how these three branches of power create the base for state to exercise its power. From this point, we then move towards politics in the international arena. We examine the debates that exist on Development and the nature of Globalization, looking its different forms and debates of its impacts. We have the last day for revision, in preparation for the final exam.

OBJECTIVES

- As an introductory course of political science, a key objective is to introduce key concepts and ideas related to the domain of political science. This is an important step towards broadening discussions within the field.

-Another objective is to introduce theoretical and methodological tools with which one can make critical analysis of politics. We will establish these theoretical tools at the very beginning of the course, in order to use them while discussing political issues throughout the course.

- A fundamental objective of the course is to develop writing skills in the area of political science. One of the most important aspect in this area is the ability to summarize points and arguments. You will practice this by writing reading reviews as assignments for the course.

- The course aims to enable students to proceed to further studies of the various areas of political science.

TEXTBOOKS

Rand Dyck, **Studying Politics**, 4th edition (Toronto: Nelson Education, 2012). (Required)

Eric Mintz, David Close & Osvaldo Croci, **Politics, Power and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science**, 2nd edition (Toronto: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2009). (Reserve Room)

Mark O. Dickerson & Thomas Flanagan, **An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach**, 9th edition (Toronto: Nelson/Thomson, 2010). (Reserve Room)

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation: 10%

Participation is important in this course. Attendance is taken five times, randomly, each worth 2%. In order to receive the full 10% of the participation mark, students must be in class and sign the attendance sheet.

Quiz (February 12): 15%

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Quiz II (April 2): 15%

There will be two quizzes. They will be based only on readings of the main textbook.

Exam I (February 26): 30%

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Exam II (to be announced by the Registrar Office): 30%

There are two examinations, each representing 30% of the total grade. Each exam is based on the class lectures and readings up to the last class before the exam date. They should be written in pen.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY the academic regulations contained in the Dalhousie University Calendar, 2013/2014. Note especially the section on University Regulations (pp.19-29) which outlines matters relating to "Intellectual Honesty" and the disciplinary measures against cheating, plagiarism and other modes of improper behaviour. In particular, become familiar with what constitutes plagiarism. The Department of Political Science has prepared a statement on plagiarism that is consistent with Dalhousie University policy. This statement is available at the main Department Office, 3rd floor Hicks Building, Room 301.

Students with Disabilities:

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 (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium 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.

MARKING SCHEME:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 65 - 69%
A = 85 - 89%	B = 73 - 76%	C = 60 - 64%
A- = 80 - 84%	B- = 70 - 72%	C- = 55 - 59%
D = 50 - 55%	F = 40 - 49%	

IN-CLASS ETIQUETTE RULES

The following are prohibited in the classroom:

- Speaking or text messaging on the phone (you are required to turn off your cell phone while in class)
- The use of laptops is restricted during the time of lecture
- Listening to music
- Eating food or drinking hot beverages
- Any form of reading (unless requested by the professor)
- Frequent entering and exiting the classroom
- Chatting with friends and other distracting behavior

Please be sure to follow these rules. You will be asked to leave otherwise and may receive 'F' as final letter grade for the course.

COURSE PROGRAM

January 6: Introduction

We start with an exposition and thorough explanation and expectation of the course and its assignments.

January 8: Defining Politics & Democracy

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, *Studying Politics*, chapter 1.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, chapter 1.
- Dickerson & Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government*, chapter 1.

January 13 & 15: On State and Government

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, *Studying Politics*, chapter 2.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, pp.26-31.
- Dickerson & Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government*, chapter 2.

January 20 & 22: On Nation and Nationalism

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, *Studying Politics*, chapter 3.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, chapter 31-42.
- Dickerson & Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government*, chapter 3.

January 27 & 29: Political Culture

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, *Studying Politics*, chapter 5.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, chapter 7 & 8.
- Dickerson & Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government*, chapter 5.

February 3 & 5: Political Parties

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, Studying Politics, chapter 12

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, Politics, Power and the Common Good, chapter 7.
- Dickerson & Flanagan, An Introduction to Government, pp.359-372.

February 10 & 12: Civil Society

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, Studying Politics, chapter 13

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, Politics, Power and the Common Good, chapter 10.
- Dickerson & Flanagan, An Introduction to Government, pp.372-385

February 17-21: Study Break ☺

February 24: Revision

February 26: Exam I

March 3 & 5: On Executive Power

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, Studying Politics, chapter 8.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, Politics, Power and the Common Good, chapter 15
- Dickerson & Flanagan, An Introduction to Government, chapter 27.

March 10 & 12: On Legislative Power

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, Studying Politics, chapter 9

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, Politics, Power and the Common Good, 14
- Dickerson & Flanagan, An Introduction to Government, chapter 26.

March 17 & 19: Judiciary Power and constitution

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, Studying Politics, chapter 7 & 10.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, Politics, Power and the Common Good, chapter 12
- Dickerson & Flanagan, An Introduction to Government, chapter 29

March 24 & 26: Development & Democracy

Required reading:

- Rand Dyck, *Studying Politics*, 14.

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, chapter 17

March 31 & April 2: Globalization & Democracy

Required reading

- Rand Dyck, *Studying Politics*, 17

Additional Reading:

- Eric Mintz et al, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, chapter 18
- Dickerson & Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government*, pp.98-111.

April 7: Conclusion: Why do I love to hate politics?

Apathy in times of globalization