



Lakehead University
Introduction to Political Science (2021-2022)
POLI-1100-YA
Mon/Wed 11:30-1:00PM – RB 1022

Fall/Winter 2021/22

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Maiangwa

Office: RB 2041

Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00pm (or by appointment)

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the scope, concepts, and methods of political science through an intersectional/interdisciplinary lens. The course animates debates and conversations on the notion and practice of power and authority, the legitimacy of the state, the role of ideas, institutions, the electoral system, identity politics, laws, intersectionality, coloniality, decoloniality, and ideologies. The course will approach these themes through marginalized/contextual perspectives by drawing on insights from scholars representing multiple ways of knowing and approaching the study of political science. It is hoped that students can relate to the ideas and views discussed in class and find their own voice to make sense of and contribute meaningfully to the political affairs of the society they live in.

Learning Objectives:

After the successful completion of this course, students should:

- Have a broad critical understanding and appreciation of power, state, and politics.
- Develop and be familiar with key debates in political science; the different levels of analysis, methods and concepts that frame analysis of political life.
- Appreciate the role of ideas, institutions, and values in politics; the institutional contexts within which governments function, and the challenges and uncertainties they face within the context of an ever-changing world, and the constraints on their actions.

- Identify marginalized voices and new paradigms of thinking through political realities regarding the relationship between the citizens and the state.
- Be able to place political events in their proper analytical contexts and understand the power/knowledge regimes that shape discourses of power and politics.
- Appreciate the contested nature of politics and ideas of belonging and social relations in the contemporary world

Course Requirements and Evaluation

The method of instruction will mainly be lectures, class discussions and student-led presentations. Attendance and participation are crucial for the success of the course. Students are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class and take part in class discussions. They are also required to complete one presentation, two essays, and take two exams.

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation: 10%

Presentation (fall & winter): 10%

Mid-term exam (fall): 15%

Fall Term paper: 20%

Winter Term Paper: 20%

End of year Exam: 25%

Attendance & Presentation: (worth 10% of the final grade)

Attendance and participation are crucial for the success of the course. All students are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class and take part in class discussions. A record of attendance will be kept throughout the duration of the course. Participation will also entail weekly news briefing that will be conducted in a group of five students based on political news reports gleaned from Aljazeera, BBC, CBC, CNN, and other news channels that the students may find informative.

Fall:

(a) **Presentation** in fall (worth 15% of the final grade) will be conducted in class from Week 7 (Oct 18 & 20) to Week 12 (Nov 22 & 24). It is a 1hr presentation that will be based on the themes of those weeks. The presentation should summarize, describe, and analyze the topic of the week with practical examples, particularly from the

Canadian context. The reading materials for this assignment will be entirely sourced by the students and should be different from those assigned for the course.

(b) **Mid-term exam** (15%) will be conducted in class on Thursday, October 27, 2021. The exam will be an hour and half long (i.e., the duration of the class) and will be based on the materials covered in the course for the fall term. It will be a closed book exam consisting of a mixed bag of multiple choice and/or short answer questions.

(c) **Fall term paper** (worth 20% of the final grade) to be handed in class on or before Monday, Nov 22. The major essay for this term will be an independent argumentative essay with an original research component. (An assignment sheet explaining the major essay in detail will be distributed and discussed in class.) You will be asked to choose from a set of five essay questions. The questions on these topics will be formulated in an open-ended way that requires you to: apply concepts and approaches in political science, most of which will be from our lectures and readings; conduct additional independent and original research using academic journals and books (up to 7 sources); and compose an original argument in response to the question prompt. It should be 7 (double-spaced) pages long.

[Examination Period for fall is December 9–19. There will be no end of term exam for this course in fall]

Winter Term Assignments:

(a) Ongoing presentation

(b) **Winter term paper** (worth 20% of final grade) The major essay for this term will be an independent argumentative essay with an original research component. (An assignment sheet explaining the major essay in detail will be distributed and discussed in class.) You will be asked to choose from a set of five essay questions. The questions on these topics will be formulated in an open-ended way that requires you to: apply concepts and approaches in political science, most of which will be from our lectures and readings; conduct additional independent and original research using academic journals and books (up to 7 sources); and compose an original argument in response to the question prompt. It should be 9 (double-spaced) pages long. (not including the title page and bibliography of works cited). The due date for this assignment is Monday March 21, 2022.

(c) **The final exam** (worth 25% of final grade) will be a three-hour test conducted at the end of the winter term. It will test students on the topics covered in the course.

It will consist of two parts: Section one will consist of short answer questions which require students to define specific terms and discuss their relevance for politics, and section two will consist of essay type questions that require students to provide longer and detailed essay type answers.

[Note: The examination period is between April 10 and 22. There will be an end of year exam for this course. It is the responsibility of students to check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course)

Please Note:

- Essay questions will be provided by the instructor. However, students are also free to come up with their own topics based on their individual interests. Such topics should first be cleared with the instructor.
- All essays should have a title page indicating the title of the essay, the name of the student, the course number, the name of the instructor, and the department.
- In terms of formatting, all essays should be doubled-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point fonts, 1 inch margin and should be handed in on or before the due date in class. Manipulating the margins or font size will be penalised.
- Barring any extenuating circumstance, all written assignments must be submitted on time, otherwise a 2 per cent penalty will apply each day the essay is late.
- For citation and referencing, please use the APA referencing style 6th edition for all written work. Failure to follow these instructions will affect your grade.
- The essays will be evaluated based on grasp of the topic, quality of argument, depth of analysis, originality of approach, familiarity with the issues and literature, as well as structure, organisation, grammar, referencing and formatting.

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs may request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Such students should at the earliest opportunity advise the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the instructor of such needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs. Those who encounter extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course should, as soon as possible, discuss these circumstances with the instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty

As academic integrity is crucial to the pursuit of university education, students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university's policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. In order to make sure that a degree awarded by Lakehead University is a reflection of the honest efforts and individual academic achievement of each student, Lakehead University treats cases of academic dishonesty very seriously and severely penalises those caught in violation of the university's policy on academic honesty.

Policy on Electronic Devices

Cell phones are distracting and therefore should be turned off and kept out of sight during lectures. A visible phone will be assumed to be used. In such a scenario, the instructor may ask the offending student to leave the class. Except where prior permission is sought from the instructor and given, no audio or video recording of

lectures is allowed. Where permission is sought and granted, such recordings should be only be for the student's private use.

COURSE SCHEDULE (FALL 2021)

Required Texts

Atchison, A. L. 2021. *Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science*. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press

Mamdani, M. 2020. *Neither Settler nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities*. Cambridge: Belknap Press

hooks, b, 2015. *Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics (2nd Edition)*. London: Routledge.

Machiavelli, Niccolò, 1469-1527. *The Prince*. Harmondsworth, Eng; New York, N.Y: Penguin Books, 1981

i. (RE)THINKING POLITICS AND POWER

Week 1 (Sept 8th): Introduction to the Course: Foundations of Political Science Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. *Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science*. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Introduction and Chapter one)

Week 2 (Sept 13 & 15): Power and Politics

Reading

Machiavelli on Power Politics, *The Prince*, chapters 15-18, 22-23

Is Politics really just about Power? Is the advice given by Machiavelli useful or Dangerous (or both)?

[Note: September 20 is the Final Date of Registration]

Week 3 (Sept 20 & 22): Political Theory and the Intersectional Quest for the Good Life

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. *Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political*

Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter two by Keisha Lindsay)

Week 4 (Sept 27 & 28): Political Ideologies

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter three by Christina Xydias).

II. STATES AND NON-STATE ACTORS

Week 5 (Oct 4 & 6): Civil Society and Social Movements

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter four by Erica Townsend-Bell)

Week 6: Fall Reading Week (No Class)

Week 7 (Oct 18 & 20): Political Parties

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 5 by Meryl Kenny).

Week 8 (Oct 25 & 27): Revisions & Mid-term Exam

Revisions

Thursday, October 27

Midterm (Exam in class)

Week 9 (Nov 1 & 3): Electoral Systems and Representation

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 6 by Jennifer Piscopo).

Week 10 (Nov 8 & 10): Separation of Power: The Executive

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 8 by Pedro dos Santos and Farida Jalalzai).

Week 11 (Nov 15 & 17): The Legislature

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 9 by Tiffany Barnes and Victoria Beall).

Week 12 (Nov 22 & 24): The Judiciary

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 10 Courts and the Law by Kimberly Fields)

Term paper due on Nov 22

Week 13 (Nov 29): Revisions

Taking stock of what we have learnt so far.

[Note: There will be no exam at the end of the fall semester for this course]

WINTER (2022)

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, RESISTANCE, BELONGING, AND AGENCY

Week 1 (Jan 10 & 12): International Political Economy

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 13 by James Brassett., Juanita Elias., Lena Rethel., & Ben Richardson).

Week 2 (Jan 17 & 19): Security and Conflict

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 14 by Jon Whooley and Laura Sjoberg)

Week 3 (Jan 24 & 26): International Law and Human Rights

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 15 by Malliga Och and Susanne Zwingel)

Week 4 (Jan 31 & Feb 2nd): International Organizations

Reading

Atchison, A. L. 2021. Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 16 by Jillienne Haglund).

Week 5 (Feb 7 & 9): Race, Gender and Cultural politics I

Reading

hooks, b, 2015. Yearning: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics. London: Routledge (Chapters, 5, 6, and 7)

Week 6 (Feb 14 & 16): Race, Gender and Cultural Politics II

Reading

hooks, b, 2015. Yearning: Race, gender and Cultural Politics. London: Routledge (Chapters, 8, 15, and 19)

Week 7 (Feb 21 & 23): The Politics of Origin/Identity Politics

Reading

Geschiere, P. (2009). The Perils of belonging: Autochthony, citizenship, and exclusion in Africa and Europe. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press (Chapters 1 & 7).

Week 8 (Feb 28 and March 2): Indigenous Peoples and the State

Reading

Smith, L.T. 1999. Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples. London and New York: Zed Books Ltd (Chapter 8: 25 Indigenous Projects)

Week 9: [STUDY BREAK: NO CLASS]

Week 10 (March 14 & 16): Coloniality and Decoloniality: Remaking a Political Community

Reading

Mamdani, M. 2020. Neither Settler nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities. Cambridge: Belknap Press (Chapters 1, 3, and 5).

Week 11 (March 21 & 23): The Environment and Politics

Readings

Brundtland Report (1987). Report of the World Commission On Environment And Development: Our Common Future.

<https://Sustainabledevelopment.Un.Org/Content/Documents/5987our-Common-Future.Pdf>

[Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Term paper due Monday March 21

Week 12 (March 28 & 30) Post-Cold War Order: Clash of Civilization?

Readings

Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* 72:3 (Summer, 1993)

Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," *The Nation*, October 1, 2001

What does Huntington mean by "Clash of Civilizations"? How effectively does Said dismantle his argument?

Week 13 (April 4 & 6): Conclusion: Taking Stock [What did we miss?]

[Note: The examination period is between April 11 and 24. There will be a final exam for this course. It is the responsibility of students to check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course]

LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! If it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

The Lakehead Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

Office of Human Rights and Equity. You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.