

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Political Science 1100 YAO

Introduction to Political Science

Dr. S. Islam
Office: OA3020
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2012-2013
Tuesday & Thursday: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Room: OA1025

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 11.30-12.30 or --or by appointment

CONTENT

This course introduces students to the basic concepts and notions of Political Science in the areas of political theory, comparative politics, public administration and international relations. As such, the course offers a survey of the basic concepts which animate discussion about the nature of society, government and politics. Examples will be drawn from Canada as well as from other countries of the world.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the course are as follows:

- a) to serve as a preparatory study for students majoring in Political Science and as a general overview for students of other concentration;
- b) to understand the nature and scope of Political Science and how it affects people's life directly and indirectly
- c) to understand the reasons why Political Science should be studied by the Canadians in particular; and
- d) to build the foundation of students in Political Science for future courses in the subject.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures and Class Discussion.

EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation	10%
Fall Assignment	15%
Mid-Term Examination.....	30%
Winter Assignment.....	15%
Final Examination.....	30%

ASSIGNMENT

Each student is required to submit one precise and commentary assignment in EACH TERM. For the FALL term students are expected to choose any *lecture topic* and

for the WINTER term any *newspaper article* written by someone or editorial (not more than two months old)

And to submit in 5 typed, double-spaced pages:

- a) A concise summary of the topic and
- b) Your comment with additional references.
- c) Original copy of the article, not photocopy or internet copy, must be attached.
- d) The essay should have a title page that indicates your name, student number, and course number and my name. All materials must be cited and footnoted, and a bibliography should be provided.

FALL assignment is due on *October 18, 2012* and the WINTER assignment is due on *February 14, 2013*. Students are strongly urged to be in touch and benefit from consultation with the instructor.

Students are reminded to consult the *University's Policy* on cheating and plagiarism.

REQUIRED TEXT

Moten, A. R. and Islam, S. S., *Introduction to Political Science: 4th Edition* (Cengage:- Nelson, 2011) [available at the University Bookstore].

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Dickerson, M and Flanagan, T. *An Introduction to Government and Politics*

ADDITIONAL BOOKS

James J. Guy. *People, Politics and Government*

Jackson, R and Jackson. *Contemporary Government and Politics*

Ranny, A. **Governing: A Brief Introduction to Politica**

LECTURE OUTLINE

FALL SEMESTER

- Week 1: Introduction: An Overview of the Course
What is Politics? Manifestation of Politics
Readings: 3-10
- Week 2: Transmission of Politics
Readings: 10-13
Political Science: Nature and Scope
Readings: 19-30
- Week 3: Political Science: Development of the Discipline - Ancient
Readings: 50-54
- Week 4: Political Science: Development of the Discipline – Medieval, and Modern
Readings: 59-61
- Week 5: State and Government: Origins:
Readings: 69-84
- Week 6: Government: Classifications: Traditional and Modern, Democracy vs. Dictatorship. Readings: 89-100
- Week 7: Federal vs. Unitary Systems
Readings: 105-116
- Week 8: Parliamentary vs. Presidential Systems
Readings: 121-142
- Week 9: Organs of Government: Executive and the Bureaucracy
Readings: 187-198, 203-214
- Week 10: Legislature:
Readings: 163-178
- Week 11: Law and the Judiciary
Readings: 221-237
- Week 12: Constitution and Constitutionalism
Readings: 147-157
- Week 13: CONCLUSIONS

WINTER SEMESTER

- Week 1 Power, Influence, Authority, and Sovereignty
Readings: 33-43
- Week 2: Political Ideologies: Liberalism
Readings: 257-266
- Week 3: Conservatism
Readings: 266-270
- Week 4: Socialism and Communism
Readings: 270-276
- Week 5: Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism - Fascism and Nazism
Readings: 280-281
- Week 6: Feminism and Environmentalism
Readings: 301-308, 317-324
- Week 7: Nation, Nation State and Nationalism
Readings: 2287-294, 297
- Week 8: Political Parties and Party Systems
Readings: 327-341
- Week 9: Pressure /Interest Groups
Readings: 347-356
- Week 10: Elections and Electoral Systems
Readings: 359-370
- Week 11: Public Opinion, Media and Politics
Readings: 375-384
- Week 12: Politics of Terrorism, Revolution and Political Violence
Readings: 389-400
- Week 13: CONCLUSIONS: 485-495