

POLI 1100
Introduction to Political Science
Fall 2016
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30-10:00 AM
Room: AT-1001
COURSE OUTLINE

Professor: Dr. Zahir Kolia
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Course Description:

This course is a broad critical introduction to politics and political science from a social justice perspective. It aims to provide an interdisciplinary and critical perspective of the processes and practices that shape social relations, political beliefs, and what can be termed the “everyday” of political life. This course approaches politics through the lens of examining diverse and often competing global and local forces that shape political life. Students are encouraged to think about politics and identities in terms of anti-oppression and shifting relations of power.

Some of questions that this course will grapple with include: What is power and politics? How is the ‘political’ conceived and organized, and in what ways does this impact social relations? How are governments organised, and what the role of ideas, institutions, culture, on political behaviour? Why does politics turn violent? What are some alternative and unconventional ways groups seek to achieve political power and recognition?

Format:

Weekly lectures will focus on identified topics. Lectures complement assigned readings and are not summaries. Students must do the assigned reading prior to the lecture. Students are responsible for lecture material, required readings, films and other material covered in class.

Course Materials:

REQUIRED BOOKS (available from the Lakehead book store)

Eric Mintz, David Close, Ozvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power, and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science, 4th Edition* (Toronto: Pearson Press, 2014)

Course Requirements:

1. Participation and Attendance (15%) determined by use of in-class quizzes, participation and attendance via “Socrative”. You will download the app for free online and be ready to use it for the second class.

2. Fall Term Paper (15%) to be handed in class on or before **Thursday, December 1**. It is a review essay intended to test the grasp of some of the basic concepts in political studies. The essay may be on any of the concepts covered in the course up to the end of the fall term and should competently demonstrate familiarity with the concept chosen and its relevance for politics. It should be 4-5 (double-spaced) pages long. More information will be provided.

Summarize your response (argument) in a sentence or two – the thesis statement – and appear in the first paragraph of your essay. Be explicit. The reader should be clear on what you are arguing. Assume an educated reader. Do not spend more than a few paragraphs providing background information. Focus on providing information that advances your argument. While the balance of the paper will defend your argument, you should also acknowledge counterarguments and seek to demonstrate that your argument is superior.

3. Mid-Term Exam (20%) will be conducted **in class on Thursday, November 3, 2016**. It is a 60 minutes test on the materials covered in the course up to the time of the exam. It will be a closed book exam consisting of a mixed bag of multiple choice and short answer questions.

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

1. Final Term Assignment approximately 12-14 double spaced pages (not including the title page) critical analysis and annotated bibliography (30%) to be handed in class on the last day of lecture for the course: **Thursday, April 6**.

This assignment has *two parts*: an analytical section and an annotated bibliography:

Part 1:

The analytical paper draws on any of the themes of the course (example, sports and politics; race and racialization; Indigenous politics, and so on). These themes have been carefully selected because they reflect dominant domains in the discipline of political science.

In the first part of the assignment you will 1) identify a theme for investigation that appears in one of the weekly readings, 2) develop an interesting analytical question or argument about that theme, 3) explain why your research question is important 4) develop three supporting arguments to support your question or argument.

(Part 1 should be 5-6 pages, double-spaced pages: can print on both sides to conserve paper).

Part 2:

The second part of this assignment is a critical annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a series of brief but critical summaries of what has been written on your theme. You will need a minimum of 10 entries, each of which focuses upon the theme you have chosen using a book chapter, or peer-reviewed journal article (excluding the readings from that particular theme). The quality of your sources is very important and will be closely assessed. Your sources must be acceptable academic sources (i.e. NO Wikipedia, news articles, popular books). I will discuss with you what sources are acceptable for this assignment. Each entry should have 3 parts:

- A Brief summary of the argument (one paragraph)
- Analytical review (one or two paragraphs)
- What are the strengths/limitations of this source?
- How is this source similar to or different from other sources?
- What are the strengths/weaknesses of the arguments in this source?
- How does the source contribute to your theme/project (one paragraph)

(Part 2 should be 7-9 double-spaced pages: can print on both sides to conserve paper).

2. Final Exam (20%) 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]

E-mail:

E-mail will be answered within two business days. Do not submit any class assignments by e-mail, unless instructed to do so. Please use e-mail only for quick queries and to set up appointments out of regularly scheduled office hours.

I welcome e-mail queries and comments. All students are required to have a valid Lakehead e-mail address. It is your responsibility to maintain your e-mail address in good working order. The University expects you to correspond with me through your official e-mail address, and not through a commercial e-mail account.

Failure to receive important class announcements and messages from me because of a faulty e-mail account (for example, an account which screens out my e-mails as junk mail; bounced messages because of overloaded caches) are not legitimate excuses.

Forwarding your Lakehead email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of e-mail account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from your Lakehead addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that e-mails from me may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me, and/or Accessibility Services. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Written Assignments:

You are to complete two written assignments, one in first term, and one in second term. The goal of each assignment is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational consideration of the evidence. Written assignments topics will be elaborated upon separately in the first and second term.

Formatting bibliographies, references:

The written assignments will all be in 12 pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Essays should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography.

Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, and my name.

In completing the written assignments, students must cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge and must cite all ideas that are borrowed from other authors. Students must use a recognized standard format correctly in their bibliographies, references, and footnotes. *Failure to do so will result in substantial penalty in calculating your assignment grade.*

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

Cornell University provides useful *online* guides to the APA and MLA citation styles.

Also, consider consulting reference books on research and writing.

Two examples:

1. Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese, *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: Social Sciences*, 4th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2009)

2. Diane E. Schmidt, *Writing in Political Science: A Practical Guide*, 4th ed. (Boston: Longman, 2010)

***** Late Penalties**

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day, including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date.

No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

Recording of Lectures Audio or Video recording of lectures or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for the use of personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

READING SCHEDULE:

NOTE: This is a tentative syllabus and some course readings may change.

Week 1

Introduction; What is Politics?

Tuesday, September 6

No readings assigned

Thursday, September 8

Textbook: "Understanding Politics", pp. 1-22

Video: Power and Devil Wears Prada

Week 2:

Political Science and Issue of Power

Tuesday, September 13

Iris Young, "Five faces of oppression", in *Five Faces of Oppression* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990), pp. 39-65

Paulo Freire, Ch. 2 "There is no Teaching Without Learning", (pdf version, 9-29)

Thursday, September 15

Textbook: "The Nation State and Globalization", pp. 22-49

Week 3

The Nation State and the Concept of Democracy:

Tuesday, September 20

Textbook: Democracy, 221-250

Thursday, September 22

Textbook: "Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and Fascism", pp. 49-75

Week 4

Ideals and Ideology:

Tuesday, September 27

Video: This is England

Thursday, September 29

Video: This is England

Discussion/Lecture: How does the video relate to course concepts?

Week 5

Indigenous Politics:

Tuesday, October 4

John Burrows, "Questioning Canada's Title to Land: The Rule of Law, Aboriginal Peoples and Colonialism"

Thursday, October 6

Scott Rutherford, "Colonialism and the Indigenous Present: An Interview with Bonita Lawrence", *Race & Class*, 52:1 (2010): 9-18

Ward Churchill, "Kill the Indian Save the Man" (City Lights Press), pp. 1-33

Week 6

Reading Week

Week 7

Political Culture:

Tuesday, October 18

Textbook: "Political Culture, Political Participation, Political Socialization", pp. 95-117

Thursday, October 20

Eva Mackey, *The House of Difference*, Chapter 2, pp. 23-40; Chapter 5, pp. 91-107

Video: "Canadian Please"

Week 8

Social Inequality

Tuesday, October 25

Democratic Imagination: "Citizenship and Inequality", pp. 49-73

Article TBA

Thursday, October 27

Sirena Liladrie, "Do not Disturb/Please Clean Room": Hotel Housekeepers in Greater Toronto," *Race & Class*, 52:1 (2010): 57-69

Picard, A. (2009, November 25). Rich v. poor: The lives we can expect from our income, *The Globe and Mail*

Simpson, J. (2011, July 20). Do we care that Canada is an unequal society? *The Globe and Mail* <<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/do-we-care-that-canada-is-an-unequal-society/article587510/>>

Week 9

Exam Week:

Tuesday, November 1

Exam Review

Thursday, November 3

Mid-Term Exam

Week 10

Political Processes 1: Constitution and Parliament

Tuesday, November 8:

Textbook: "Constitution and Courts", pp. 275-296

Thursday, November 10:

Textbook: "Parliament," pp. 323-346

Week 11

Political Processes 2: Parties and Elections

Tuesday, November 15:

Textbook: "Parties", pp. 117-142

Thursday, November 17:

Textbook: "Elections", pp. 142-171

Week 12

Political Processes 3: Public Policy and Political Influence

Tuesday, November 22:

Textbook: "Public Policy", pp. 369-393

Thursday, November 24:

Textbook: "Political influence", pp. 171-201

Week 13

Political Processes 4: Unconventional Politics

Tuesday, November 29:

Textbook: "Non-Conventional Politics", pp. 201-227

Rios, Victor M, "Staling a Bag of Potato Chips and Other Crimes of resistance." Contexts 11:1 (2012): pp. 48-53. Available online:

<http://www.broomcenter.ucsb.edu/files/publications/pdf/rios1.pdf>

Thursday, December 1:

Martin Luther King, "Letter from a Birmingham Prison"

Video: TBA

[Note: Short paper due at the end of class on December 1. There will be no exam at the end of the fall semester for this course]

Winter Break:

COURSE SCHEDULE: WINTER (2017)

Week 1

Political Structures in Everyday Life: Food

Tuesday, January 10:

Eric Schlosser, "Fast Food Nation Part 1: The True Cost of Americas Diet"

<http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/news/fast-food-nation-part-one-the-true-cost-of-americas-diet-19980903>

Thursday, January 12:

Video: Food Inc.

Week 2

Newer Perspectives on Politics: Feminism

Tuesday, January 17:

Textbook: "Newer Perspectives: Feminism", pp. 75-83

Article: TBA

Thursday, January 19:

Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm", *Signs*, 16:3 (Spring 1991): 485-501

Zerbisias, A. (2010). Feminomics: Calculating the value of 'women's work'. *The Globe and Mail*, October 30

Week 3

Newer Perspectives on Politics: Race and Racialization

Tuesday, January 24:

Charles A. Gallagher, "Color-Blind Privilege: The Social and Political Functions of Erasing the Color Line in Post Race America" *Race, Gender & Class*, 10:4 (2003), pp. 22-37

Thursday, January 26:

Nazli Kibria, "The contested meanings of 'Asian American': racial dilemmas in the contemporary US" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 21:5 (September 1998): 939-959

Week 4

Politics of Medicalization:

Tuesday, January 31:

Peter Conrad, "The Shifting Engines of Medicalization" *Journal of Health and Social Behaviour*, 46:1 (March 2005): 3-15

S McGregor, "Neoliberalism and Health Care" *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 25:2 (2001): 82-89.

Thursday, February 2:

Video: Health for Sale (53 minutes)

Week 5

Politics of Sports:

Tuesday, February 7:

Harry Edwards “The Revolt of the Black Athlete”

Thursday, February 9:

Ward Churchill, “Mascots and Spreading the Fun”

<http://www.dickshovel.com/crimes.html>

Article: TBA

Week 6

Environmental Politics:

Tuesday, February 14:

Textbook: “Newer Perspectives: Environmentalism”, pp. 84-94

Philemon Oyewole, “Costs of Environmental Justice Associated with the Practice of Green Marketing”, *Journal of Business Ethics* 29: 3 (2003): pp. 239-251

Thursday, February 16:

Andrea Smith, Ch. 3, “Rape of the Land” in *Conquest*, pp. 55-78

Video: BBC Video on Native American groups come together to protest planned pipeline

Week 7

Study Break:

Week 8

Politics of Fund Raising

Tuesday, February 28:

Gayle Sulik, “#Rethink Pink: Moving Beyond Breast Cancer Awareness”, *Gender and Society*, 28: 5 (2014): 655-678

Thursday, March 2:

Video: Cancer research and pink-washing

Week 9

Global Politics 1

Tuesday, March 7:

Textbook: "Global Politics", pp. 393-400

Sarah White, "Thinking Race, Thinking Development" *Third World Quarterly*, 23:3 (2002): 407-419

Thursday, March 9:

Article TBA

Video: Jamaica and Structural Adjustment

Week 10

Global Politics 2

Tuesday, March 14:

Textbook: "Global Politics", pp. 420-446

Thursday, March 16:

Sherene Razack, "Dark Threats, White Knights" (University of Toronto Press): selections

Week 11

Alternative Politics: Radical Forms

Tuesday, March 21:

Article TBA

Thursday, March 23:

Article TBA

Week 12

Open Day: Class Choice

Tuesday, March 28:

Article TBA

Thursday, March 30:

Article TBA

Week 13

Final Thoughts

Tuesday, April 4:

Thursday, April 6:

Final Exam Period: April 10-22