

**POLI 1100YA - Introduction to Political Science
Fall/Winter 2018-2019**

Lakehead University
Department of Political Science

Lecture Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am to 10:00am

Lecture Location: ATAC 2001

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30am to 12:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students are introduced to the study of politics and governance with a special focus on democracy and democratic citizenship. The course is designed to familiarize students with a number of basic concepts that will help them understand, explain, and raise critical questions about political institutions and processes. Students will develop critical skills: theoretical conceptualization, comprehension of lectures and readings, utilization of library resources, and communication of thoughts and research findings in both written and verbal forms. The aim is to encourage an informed and active interest in political life and provide the skills to critically examine democratic institutions, public discourse, and the exercise of power.

COURSE MATERIALS

Two Required texts (available for purchase at the Lakehead University Bookstore):

Rand Dyck and Christopher G. Anderson (eds.) *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science 5e* (Toronto: Nelson 2016)

Held, David. (2006). *Models of Democracy. Third Edition.* Stanford, Stanford University Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, EVALUATION AND DUE DATES

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Attendance & Participation: | 10% |
| Fall Mid-term Exam: | 20% |
| Fall Term paper: | 20% |
| Winter Term Paper: | 25% |
| Winter Final Exam: | 25% |

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

Students are strongly encouraged to attend every class, to do the assigned readings before coming to class, and to take part in class discussions. Attendance is important because course exams and papers will be evaluated according to the information covered in both the readings **and** the lectures.

FALL

(a) **Mid-Term Exam** in fall (worth **20%** of the final grade) will be conducted in class on Thursday, October 25th, 2018. It will be a 30 minute test on the lectures and 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.

(b) **Fall Term Paper** (worth **20%** of the final grade) to be handed in class on or before Thursday, November 29th, 2018. 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 5 (double-spaced) pages long.

[Examination Period for Fall is December 6 - December 16, 2018 (includes two Sunday exam days). There **will not be an end of term exam** for this course in Fall]

WINTER

(a) **Winter Term Paper** (worth **25%** of final grade) to be handed in class on Thursday, April 4th, 2019; that is, the last day of lectures for the course. It is a longer essay, and may be on any topic in political science. It should be between 10 and 12 double-spaced pages (not including the title page and bibliography of works cited).

(b) **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 8 - April 18, 2019 (includes one Sunday exam day). 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)

The FIVE most important things to remember:

1. Students are free to choose their own topics based on their individual interests but all topics should first be cleared with the instructor.
2. 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.
3. All essays should be doubled-spaced, use Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and be handed in on or before the due date in class.
4. For citation and referencing, students are free to use whatever conventional format they wish (do not invent your own referencing format) and must use that format consistently throughout the paper.
5. 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.

FALL TERM 2018

Week 1 (September 4th & 6th) Introduction to Politics, Liberalism, and Democracy

Readings: None

- What do we mean by “politics” or “political”?
- What kinds of things count as “political”?
- What do we mean by “democracy” and what kind of politics is it?
- What do we mean by “liberalism” and what kind of politics is it?
- What kinds of problems is the world facing that “politics” or “democracy” or “liberalism” can help us solve?
- Who cares?

Week 2 (September 11th & 13th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter One: Studying Politics

- What is political “science”?
- What do political scientists do exactly?
- What are the key concepts of political science?

IMPORTANT: Final Date to Register (Add): Monday, September 17, 2018

Week 3 (September 18th & 20th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Two: Governments and States

- What is government?
- Why are there states and not something else?

Week 4 (September 25th & 27th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Three: States and Nations

- What’s the difference between a “state” and a “nation”?
- Why is the difference important?

Week 5 (October 2nd & 7th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Five: Political Culture and Socialization

- Where do political ideas and values come from?
- Are we trapped in the Matrix?

IMPORTANT: Week 6 (October 8th or 12th) Fall Study Break! No classes!

Week 7 (October 16th - IMPORTANT: No class on October 18th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Six: Thinking About Politics: Ideas and Ideologies

Models of Democracy - Chapter One: Classical Democracy: Athens

- What is democracy and why do people seem to like it so much?
- What are the alternatives to democracy?

Week 8 (October 23rd & 25th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Seven: Designing and Limiting Governments by Constitutions

Models of Democracy - Chapter Three: The Development of Liberal Democracy

- What are liberal “rights” and where do they come from?
- Why do nations have constitutions?
- How does democracy relate to these rights and constitutions?

IMPORTANT: Mid-Term Exam in fall (worth 20% of the final grade) will be conducted in class on Thursday, October 25th, 2018

Week 9 (October 30th & November 1st)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Eight: The Political Executive and Bureaucracy

- Who makes the final decision in a liberal democracy?
- Why do we need administrative institutions to manage our nation-states?

Week 10 (November 6th & 8th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Nine: Legislatures

- Why do we have elections and representatives?

Week 11 (November 13th & 15th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Ten: The Judiciary

- Who decides if someone has broken a law?

Week 12 (November 20th & 22nd)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Eleven: Democracy in Action

- How are citizens involved in all of these systems?

Week 13 (November 27th & 29th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Twelve: Political Parties

Models of Democracy - Chapter Five: Competitive Elitism

- But to what extent are citizens *actually* involved?

IMPORTANT: Fall Term Paper (worth 20% of the final grade) to be handed in class on or before Thursday, November 29th, 2018

Winter Term 2019

Week 1 (January 8th & 10th)

Readings: None

- Recap: What have we learned so far?

Week 2 (January 15th & 17th)

Readings

Models of Democracy - Chapter Six: Pluralism, Corporate Capitalism and the State

- Why is there so much disagreement and conflict right now?
- What are some of the main sources of conflict?

Week 3 (January 22nd & 24th)

Readings

Models of Democracy - Chapter Seven: From Postwar Stability to Political Crisis

- Is liberal democracy working?
- Are the political decisions being made these days *legitimate*?

Week 4 (January 29th & 31st)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Thirteen: Civil Society

- What are social (justice) movements and what do they want?

Week 5 (February 5th & 7th)

Readings

Models of Democracy - Chapter Eight: Democracy after Soviet Communism

- Is liberal democracy the only game in town?

IMPORTANT: February 8th is the Final Date to Withdrawal from the course

Week 6 (February 12th & 14th)

Readings

Models of Democracy - Chapter Nine: Deliberative Democracy and the Defense of the Public Realm

- Does talking to one another lead to better decisions?
- Why is it important to promote an array of diverse conversations?

IMPORTANT: Week 7 (February 19th & 21st) Break! No Classes!

Week 8 (February 26th & 28th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Fourteen: The Politics of Development and Underdevelopment

- How did we get rich and poor nation-states?
- What is international “development”?
- Is development something everyone wants?

Week 9 (March 5th & 7th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Fifteen: Regime Change in an Era of Globalization

- Why do some nation-states go through revolutions?
- Why have so many states becoming democracies?

Week 10 (March 5th & 7th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Sixteen: International Relations

- How do nation-states relate to one another? Why do they fight?
- What is international law?
- How do we resolve international conflict?

Week 11 (March 12th & 14th)

Readings

Studying Politics - Chapter Seventeen: The Politics of Globalization

Models of Democracy - Chapter Eleven: Democracy, the Nation-State and the Global System

- What do people mean by globalization?
- What are the good things and bad things about globalization?
- How do we make democratic decisions in a globalized context?

Week 12 (March 19th & 21st)

Readings

Models of Democracy - Chapter Ten: Democratic Autonomy

- What are the prospects for being a democratic citizen in the future?

Week 13 (April 2nd & 4th) - Concluding the Course

Readings: None

- A quick recap, and farewell.

IMPORTANT: Winter Term Paper (worth 25% of final grade) to be handed in class on Thursday, April 4th, 2017