



POLI 1100 YB: **Introduction to Political Science** (Fall/Winter 2012/13)
Tues & Thurs: 16:00-17:30pm – BB 1021

Instructor: Zubairu Wai

Office: RB 2041

Hours: Tues & Thurs: 1:00pm – 2:00pm (or by appointment)

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Course Description:

... why am I so interested in politics? If I were to answer you very simply I would say this: why shouldn't I be interested? That is to say, what blindness, what deafness, what density of ideology would have to weigh me down to prevent me from being interested in what is probably the most crucial subject to our existence, that is to say the society in which we live, the economic relations in which it functions, and the system of power which defines the regular forms and regular permissions and prohibitions of our conduct? The essence of our life consists, after all of the political functioning of the society in which we find ourselves. Michel Foucault

The aim of this course is to provide a broad and critical introduction to the discipline of political science by providing an overview of the scope, concepts and methods of political studies. It focuses on the processes and practices of politics, the institutional and social framework of political activity and behaviour, and the role of ideas, institutions, cultures and political system in politics. Moreover, it focuses on the relationship between power and politics, and addresses not only the essentials of political science as an academic field of study but also analyses the institutional contexts within which governments operate and the challenges and uncertainties they face within the context of an ever-intensifying globalization.

What is power and politics? How do they impact social relations? How is the “political” conceived, understood and organized, and what is its impact on social behaviour, institutional practices and the wider society? How are governments organised, and which political ideas influence the particular regime types adopted by different states and societies? Why do people obey governmental authority? This course is designed to provide students with critical conceptual and analytical tools that enable them to engage with broader questions about the nature, practice and exercise of power and politics. It is also intended to help them develop critical skills for not only understanding the mechanics and dynamics of political life, but also engaging with the issues of power and politics they confront on a day to day basis.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

The method of instruction will be lectures and class discussions. Students are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class, take part in class discussions, complete two essays and take two exams. The assignments will be as follows:

Fall: A short paper, and an end of term exam. The paper is a critical review essay intended to test your understanding of some of the basic concepts in, and ideas about power and politics. The essay should be about 5 double-spaced pages. It should competently demonstrate a familiarity with the concepts or ideas that you choose to discuss and their relevance for political science. The essay should have a title page indicating name, student number, course number, the name of the instructor, the department and the university and the title of the paper. The format should be Times New Roman 12 point fonts, 1 inch margin and should be handed in class on Thursday October 18.

Winter: A longer paper and final (end-of-year) examination. The essay can 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). The format should be Times New Roman 12 point fonts, 1 inch margin and should be handed in class on Thursday April 5, that is, the last day of lectures for the course. The essay should include:

- (a) a title page indicating your name, student number, course number, the name of the course instructor, the department and the university. As well it should clearly indicate the title of the paper;
- (b) The main body of the essay (should be between 10 and 12 double-spaced pages). You should
 - i. clearly state in an introduction what the essay is about, articulating a thesis
 - ii. apply a theoretical framework to analyse the issue or topic
 - iii. Approach the issue/topic, developing your points, thesis, arguments etc. in a systematic, coherent and consistent manner, demonstrating a depth of analysis, familiarity with your chosen topic, drawing from a range of literature and sources and evidence to back your points or arguments;
 - iv. use clear expressions and grammatically correct sentences to make your points
 - v. Conclude your essay in light of your theoretical framework, discussing the implications of your arguments, findings etc. for politics etc.
- (c) Provide a list of reference indicating the sources cited.

[Barring any extenuating circumstances, all written work must be submitted on time].

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| Attendance & Participation: | 10% |
| Short (first-term) paper: | 15% |
| Fall end-of-term Exam: | 20% |
| Final Essay: | 25% |
| Final Exam: | 30% |

Required Texts

1. Abdul Rashid Moten and Syed Serajul Islam, *Introduction to Political Science* [Fourth Edition] (Toronto: Nelson, 2011)
2. Janine Brodie and Sandra Rein (eds.) *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* [fourth edition] (Toronto: Pearson, 2008)
3. Additional readings will be made available by the instructor.

[The required books are available in the bookstore or online at Amazon.com. Copies have also been placed on reserve in the library. Additional readings have also been placed on reserve in the library under the course code. You can also find journal articles both in the library and online through the library system]

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 course 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 course instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university policy on Academic dishonesty, especially in relationship, but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. Violation of this policy and the honour code will result in serious consequences.

COURSE SCHEDULE (FALL 2011)

I. STUDYING POWER & POLITICS

Week 1 (Sept 11 & 13):

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE: THE STUDY OF POLITICS

Required Readings:

Moten & Islam: Chapters 1 & 2; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 1

Week 2: (Sept. 18 & 20):

POWER & POLITICS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 1, 2 & 3; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 1

Week 3 (Sept. 25 & 27):

APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF POLITICS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 2; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 1 (pp. 11 – 17)

[Note: September 21 is the final day of registration]

II. THINKING POWER & POLITICS

Week 4: (Oct. 2 & 4):

TRADITIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT I (ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL)

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 4; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 2

Week 5: (Oct. 9 & 11)

TRADITIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT II (MODERN & POSTMODERN)

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 4; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 2

Week 6: (Oct. 16 & 18)

MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 15; Brodie & Rein: Chapters 3, 4 & 5

[Note: Short (first-term) paper due in class on October 18]

III. FORMATIONS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS

Week 7: (Oct. 23 & 25):

THE MODERN STATE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 5; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 6

Week 8: (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1):

GOVERNMENTS & POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 6, 7 & 8; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 7

[Note: November 2 is the final day for withdrawal from the course without penalty]

Week 9: (Nov. 6 & 8):

CONSTITUTIONS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 9; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 8

Week 10: (Nov. 13 & 15):

ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT I: THE LEGISLATURE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 10

Week 11: (Nov. 20 & 22):

ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT II: THE EXECUTIVE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 11 & 12; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 9

Week 12: (Nov. 27 & 29):

ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT III: THE JUDICIARY

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 13; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 8

[Note: the Examination Period is December 6 – 17; Check with the Registrar's office for the exact date for this course]

COURSE SCHEDULE: WINTER (2013)

IV. PRODUCTION OF POLITICS: SITES, PROCESSES & AGENTS

Week 1 (Jan. 8 & 10):

POLITICAL CULTURE & SOCIALISATION

Required Reading

Moten & Islam Chapter 22; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 13 & 15

Week 2 (Jan. 15 & 17):

CITIZENSHIP & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 20 & 24; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 12

Week 3 (Jan. 22 & 24):

POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 19 & 21; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 11

Week 4 (Jan. 29 & 31):

NATIONS, NATIONAL IDENTITY & NATIONALISM

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 16

Week 5 (Feb. 5 & 7):

IDENTITY AND THE POLITICS OF DIVERSITY

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 17; Brodie & Rein: Chapters 16

Week 6 (Feb. 12 & 14):

GENDER & POLITICS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 17; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 14

Week 7 (Feb 19 & 21): [STUDY BREAK: FEBRUARY 18 – 22; NO CLASS]

Week 8 (Feb. 26 & 28):

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THE STATE

Required Reading

Brodie & Rein: Chapter 17

V. THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Week 9 (March 5 & 7):

GLOBAL POLITICS & THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 25 & 26; Brodie & Rein: Chapter 20, 22 & 23

Week 10 (March 12 & 14):

GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION

Required Reading

Brodie & Rein: Chapter 24

Week 11 (March 19 & 21):

GLOBAL INEQUALITY & THE POLITICS OF NORTH SOUTH RELATIONS

Required Reading

Brodie & Rein: Chapters 20 & 27

Week 12 (March 26 & 28):

POLITICAL VIOLENCE, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY & WORLD (DIS)ORDERS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 23; Brodie & Rein: Chapters 19 & 21

Week 13 (April 2 – 4): CONCLUSIONS: THE CHALLENGE OF TEACHING AND STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE

[Note: Final paper due in class on April 4]

[Note: April 12 – 24 is examination Period. Check with the Registrar's office for the exact date for this course]