



POLI-1100 YB: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fall/Winter 2013-2014

Tuesday & Thursday: 4:00-5:30pm; RB 2047

Instructor: Zubairu Wai

Office: RB 2041

Hours: Tues & Thurs: 12:30pm – 2:00pm (or by appointment)

Email: zubawai@lakeheadu.ca

Course Description:

Your question is: 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 Structure, Requirements and Evaluation

The method of instruction will mainly be lectures. Attendance and student 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 two essays and take three exams.

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation:	10%
Mid-term Exam:	15%
Short (first-term) paper:	15%
Final Essay:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

1. Attendance & Participation (Cumulative): 10%

Attendance and student 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 register of attendance will be kept throughout the duration of the course.

2. Fall: Mid-term exam (worth 15%) and short term paper (worth 15%).

- (a) The **mid-term exam (worth 15%)** will be conducted **in class on October 24**. It is a 90 minutes test intended to test students on the material covered in the course up to the time of the exam. It will be a closed book exam consisting of a mix-bag of multiple choice and short answer questions.
- (b) **The short paper (worth 15%)** is a review essay intended to test understanding of some of the basic concepts and ideas about power and politics covered in the course. It can be on any of the concepts covered in class. The essay should be 5 (double-spaced) pages long. It should competently demonstrate a familiarity with the concept or idea that is chosen and its relevance for political science. The format should be Times New Roman 12 point fonts, 1 inch margin and should be handed in class on **Thursday, November 28**.

3. Winter: Final term paper (worth 30%) and final exam (worth 30%).

- (a) The **final exam** will be a three hour test conducted at the end of the 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 world politics, and section two will consist of essay type questions that require students to provide long and detailed essay type answers to questions about world politics. [**Note: The examination period is between April 7 and 17. It is the responsibility of students to check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course**)]

- (b) The final essay (worth **30% of the total mark**) is intended to test understanding of concepts and issues covered in the course. It can be on any topic in political science and 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 4, that is, the last day of lectures for the course.

Note: All essays must include a title page indicating name, student number, course number, the name of the course instructor, the department and the university, as well as the title of the paper. It should also include a list of reference indicating the sources cited. Barring any extenuating circumstances, and except where the instructor's permission is sought and given, all written work must be submitted on time; otherwise, a penalty of 2 per cent per day for lateness will be applied.

Required Texts

1. Abdul Rashid Moten and Syed Serajul Islam, *Introduction to Political Science* [Fourth Edition] (Toronto: Nelson, 2011)
2. Janine Brodie, Sandra Rein & Malinda Smith (eds.) *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* [fourth edition] (Toronto: Pearson, 2008)

Recommended Text

3. *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics* [third edition], edited by Iain McLean and Alistair McMillan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

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 2013)

I. STUDYING POWER & POLITICS

Week 1 (Sept 10 & 12):

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Week 2: (Sept. 17 & 19):

POWER, POLITICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 1, 2 & 3;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 1

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “politics”, “political science”, “power”, “authority”, “institutionalism”, “pluralism”, “elitism,” “Marxism,” “feminism,” “rational choice”, “public choice”, “class”

[Note: September 20 is the final day of registration]

II. THINKING POWER & POLITICS

Week 3 (Sept. 24 & 26):

TRADITIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT I (ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL)

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 4

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 2

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “political philosophy”, “political theory”, “Confucius”, “Socrates”, “Plato,” “Aristotle”; “Augustine, St.” “Aquinas, St. Thomas”

Week 4: (Oct. 1 & 3):

TRADITIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT II (MODERN & POSTMODERN)

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 4

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 2

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “Machiavelli, Niccolo”, “Hobbes, Thomas,” “Locke, John,” “Rousseau, Jean-Jacques,” “state of nature”, “social contract”, “Mill, John Stuart”, “Marx, Karl,” “Nietzsche, Friedrich”, “de Beauvoir, Simone” “Fanon, Frantz”, “Foucault, Michel” “Derrida, Jacques”, “post-modernism”

Week 5: (Oct. 8 & 10)

MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES I

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 15;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapters 3 & 5

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “ideology,” “liberalism,” “conservatism,” “democracy,” “neoliberalism,” “capitalism,” “nationalism,” “fascism,” “anti-Semitism,” “fundamentalism: Christian and Islamic,” “libertarianism,” “apartheid”

Week 6: (Oct. 15 & 17)

MODERN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES II

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 15

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 4

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “Marxism,” “socialism,” “communism,” “social democracy,” “feminism,” “anarchism,” “propaganda,” “totalitarianism,” “anarcho-syndicalism,” “Stalinism,” “Leninism,” “pan-Africanism”

III. FORMATIONS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS

Week 7: (Oct. 22 & 24):

THE MODERN STATE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 5;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 7

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “state,” “nation-state,” “sovereignty,” “Westphalian State System,” Weber “legitimacy,” “authority,” “welfare state,” “market,” “society,” “industrial society,” “capitalism,” “class,” “social contract,” “bourgeoisie,” “proletariat,” “working class,” “middle class,” “peasantry,” “feudalism,” “post-colonial state”,

[The mid-term exam will be on October 24 in class]

Week 8: (Oct. 29 & 31):

GOVERNMENTS & POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 6, 7 & 8;

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “governance,” “government,” “regime,” “liberalism,” “pluralism,” “democracy,” “authoritarianism,” “totalitarianism,” “despotism,” “tyranny,” “dictatorship,” “revolution,” “one-party states,” “competitive party systems” “corporatism,” “State,” “market,” “society”,

[Note: November 4 is the final day for withdrawal from the course without penalty]

Week 9: (Nov. 5 & 7):

CONSTITUTIONS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 9;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 8

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “Constitution,” “constitutional law”, “federalism”, “confederation”, “bill of rights”, “rule of law”,

Week 10: (Nov. 12 & 14):

ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT I: THE LEGISLATURE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 10

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “legislature”, “parliament”, “House of Commons”, “House of Lords”, Congress,” “House of Representatives”, “senate”, “parliamentary privilege”, “parliamentary question”, parliamentary sovereignty”, “separation of powers”, “federalism”, “central-local relations”, unicameralism”, “bill”, “private member’s bill”, “law”, “statute law”, “bicameralism” “speaker”; “devolution”, “statutory instrument”, “delegated legislation”

Week 11: (Nov. 19 & 21):

ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT II: THE EXECUTIVE

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 11 & 12;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 10

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “executive”, “executive privilege”, “cabinet”, “minister”, “public goods”, “public administration”, “public good”, “head of government”, “head of state”, “president”, “prime minister”, “collective responsibility”, “ministerial responsibility”, “minority government”, “cohabitation”, “privy council”, “bureaucracy”, “civil service”

Week 12: (Nov. 26 & 28):

ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT III: THE JUDICIARY

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 13;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 8

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “judiciary”, “law”, “common law”, “statute law”, “natural law”, “constitutional law”, “Roman law”, “norm”, “constitution”, “judiciary”, “jurisprudence”, “rights”, “human rights”, “punishment”, “rule of

law”, “due process”, “equal protection”, “judicial activism/judicial restraint”, “judicial review”, “supreme court”

[Note: Final paper due at the end of class on November 28]

COURSE SCHEDULE: WINTER (2014)

IV. PRODUCTION OF POLITICS: SITES, PROCESSES & AGENTS

Week 1 (Jan. 7 & 9):

POLITICAL CULTURE & SOCIALISATION

Required Reading

Moten & Islam Chapter 22;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 11

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “political culture”, civic culture, “political socialization”, “mass media”, “class consciousness”, “consensus”, “race and politics”, “cleavage”, “citizenship”, “civic culture”, “mass media”, “community”, “religion and politics”

Week 2 (Jan. 14 & 16):

CITIZENSHIP & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 20 & 24;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 9

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “citizenship”, “civic culture”, “political participation”, OCPD: “representation”, “voting”, “participation, political”, “electoral system”, “proportional representation”, “party organization”, “party system”, “party identification”, “mass media”, “majoritarianism”, “majority rule”, “minority government”, “opinion polls”, “referendum”

Week 3 (Jan. 21 & 23):

POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapters 19 & 21;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 11

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “representation”, “voting”, “electoral system”, “constituency”, “single transferable vote”, “first past the post”, “proportional representation”, “party organization”, “party system”, “party identification”, “mass media”, “majoritarianism”, “majority rule”, “minority government”,

“opinion polls”, “referendum”, “plebiscite”, “gerrymandering”, “voting”,
“tactical voting”, “Electoral College”,

Week 4 (Jan. 28 & 30):

GENDER & POLITICS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 17;

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “gender and politics”, “personal as political”,
“patriarchy”, “race and politics”, “women’s movement”, “suffragette”, “suffragist”,
“matriarchy”, “sexism”

Week 5 (Feb. 4 & 6):

IDENTITY AND THE POLITICS OF DIVERSITY

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 17;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 6

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “social exclusion,” “social justice,” “social
movements,” “social mobility,” “solidarity,” “equity”, “ethnicity”,

Week 6 (Feb. 11 & 13):

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THE STATE

Required Reading

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 16

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “paternalism”, “colonialism”, “internal
colonisation”, “self-determination”, “self-government”, “social exclusion,” “social
justice,” “social mobility,” “solidarity,” “equity”,

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

Week 8 (Feb. 26 & 28):

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Required Reading

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 18

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “social movements,” “social exclusion,” “social
justice,” “social mobility,” “solidarity,” “equity”,

V. THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Week 9 (March 4 & 6):

GLOBAL POLITICS & THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 25 & 26;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapters 13 & 14

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “international relations”, “realism”, “real politik”, “sphere of influence”, “strategy”, “diplomacy”, “war”, “empire”, “sovereignty”, “Westphalian state system”, “balance of power”, “empire”, “imperialism”, “secession”, “international law”, “international society”, “realism”, “geopolitics”, “globalization”, “migration”, “United Nations”, “Security Council”,

Week 10 (March 11 & 13):

GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION

Required Reading

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 15

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “international political economy”, “North”, “West”, “South”, “Third World”, “centre-periphery politics”, “colonialism”, “decolonization”, “post-colonial state”, “dependency”, “development”, “multinational corporation”, “World Trade Organisation (WTO)”

Week 11 (March 18 & 20):

GLOBAL INEQUALITY & THE POLITICS OF NORTH SOUTH RELATIONS

Required Reading

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 17

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “clash of civilizations”, “orientalism”, “aid”, “IMF”, “World Bank”, “development”, “dependency”, “world system analysis”, “Third World”, “centre-periphery politics”, “colonialism”, “decolonization”, “post-colonial state”, “multinational corporation”, “World Trade Organisation (WTO)”, “globalization”, “migration”, “violence”

Week 12 (March 25 & 27):

POLITICAL VIOLENCE, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY & WORLD (DIS)ORDERS

Required Reading

Moten & Islam: Chapter 23;

Brodie, Rein & Smith: Chapter 12

Recommended Reading

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics: “violence”, “terrorism”, “ethnic cleansing”,
“genocide”, “coup d’état”, “revolution”, “non-violence”, “war”, “war crimes”

Week 13 (April 1 – 3): CONCLUSIONS

[Note: Final paper due in class on April 3]

[Note: April 7–17 is examination Period. Check with the Registrar’s office for the exact date for this course]