

POLI-1100-YB: Introduction to Political Science

Course Outline

Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Zubairu Wai

Office: RB 2041

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00pm – 2:00pm (or by appointment)

Email: zubawai@lakeheadu.ca

Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00am-11:30am, RB-1042

Course Description:

This course provides a broad critical introduction to politics and political science. It attempts a broad exploration of the processes and practices that shape political life, the institutional contexts and social framework of political activity, and the role of ideas, institutions and values in influencing political behaviour. The course examines the relationship between power and politics, provides a broad overview of the scope, methods and concerns of political studies, and examines the institutional contexts within which politics is produced. 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 do people obey governmental authority and why does government authority collapse? Why does politics turn violent? These are some of the questions that the course attempts to grapple with. This is will be the first part (fall section) of a full year course. The second part (winter 2018 section, will be taught by Dr. Patrick Cain.

Learning Objectives

This section is designed to provide students with the critical conceptual and analytical tools that enable them to engage with broader questions about the nature, practice and exercise of power. It is also intended to help students develop critical skills for understanding the dynamics of political life, as well as engaging the questions of power and politics they confront on an everyday basis.

By the end of this section, students should:

- Have a broad critical understanding of power and politics;
- Be familiar with the fundamentals of, and key debates in, political science; the major theoretical approaches to the discipline and the scope, concepts, methods that frame analysis of political life;
- Appreciate the role of ideas, institutions and values in politics, the institutional contexts within which governments function and the challenges and uncertainties they face within the context of an ever-changing world.
- Be able to place political events in their proper analytical contexts and understand the power/knowledge regimes that shape discourses of power
- Appreciated the inevitability, and contested nature of politics and the social relations it makes possible.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

This section is only half of a full year course. The other half, (Winter 2018) will be covered by Dr. Patrick Cain. For this section, the method of instruction will mainly be lectures, with occasional student-led presentations and class discussions. Attendance and 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 an exam and an essay. The grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation:	20 Marks
Annotated Bibliography:	20 Marks
Mid-term Exam:	25 Marks
Fall Term paper:	35 Marks

Since this is only half of a full year course, the marks weighted above will account for only 50% of the final grade for the course:

Attendance & Participation: (20 marks)

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

Annotated bibliography: (20 marks): Due Tuesday October 17

This assignment involves compiling an annotated bibliography of five sources on a specific topic. It should include: (a) the title of the selected topic; (b) five properly cited sources relating to the topic (formatted in Chicago referencing style); and (c) annotation (about 100 words) for each of the source cited. The list should only contain academic sources (specifically books and journal articles). All formatting guidelines (see notes below) apply to this assignment. This is a great opportunity to start thinking about a possible topic for your final essay.

Mid-term Exam in fall (25 marks) will be conducted **in class on Thursday, October 26**. It is an hour 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.

Fall term paper (35) to be handed in on or before **Monday, December 4**. It may be on any topic in political science. It should be 10 pages double-spaced, (excluding the title page and list of references of work cited). The essay will be evaluated based on grasp of the topic and literature, quality of argument, depth of analysis and originality of approach, as well as structure, organisation, grammar, referencing and formatting.

Please Note:

- While it is the responsibility of all students to choose their own topics based on their individual interests, such topics should first be cleared with the instructor.
- 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.
- In terms of formatting, all essays should be doubled-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point fonts, 1-inch margin. Manipulating the margins or font size will be penalised.

- Barring any extenuating circumstance, all written assignments must be submitted on or before the due date, otherwise a 2 per cent per day penalty will apply each day the assignment is late for up to a week, beyond which, it will not be accepted.
- Essays exceeding the maximum length will not be accepted.
- For citation and referencing, please use only **Chicago referencing style** for all written work.
- Failure to follow these instructions will result in a 10% deduction from the total points scored for the assignment.

Required Texts

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

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 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 instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty

As academic integrity is crucial to the pursuit of university education, students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university's policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. In order to make sure that a degree awarded by Lakehead University is a reflection of the honest efforts and individual academic achievement of each student, Lakehead University treats cases of academic dishonesty very seriously and severely penalises those caught in violation of the university's policy on academic honesty.

Policy on Electronic Devices

Cell phones are distracting and therefore should be turned off and kept out of sight during lectures. A visible phone will be assumed to be used. In such a scenario, the instructor may ask the offending student to leave the class. Except where prior permission is sought from the instructor and given, no audio or video recording of lectures is allowed. Where permission is sought and granted, such recordings should be only be for the student's private use.

Course Schedule: (Fall 2017)

Week 1 (Sept 5 & 7): Introduction to the Course

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 1: 'Studying Politics: An Introduction' – Christopher G. Anderson

Week 2 (Sept. 12 & 14): Power and Politics

Readings

Janine Brodie, 'Power and Politics,' in Janine Brodie and Sandra Rein (eds.) *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 4e* (Toronto: Pearson 2009), pp.

Textbook, Chapter 1: 'Studying Politics: An Introduction' – Christopher G. Anderson

Video: Clip from Devil Wears Prada

[Note: Friday, September 18 is the final date of registration]

Weeks 3 (Sept. 19 & 21): Political Ideologies

Readings

Textbook, Chapter 2: 'Thinking about Politics: Ideas and Ideologies in Politics' – Richard Sigurdson

Video: This is England (in D2L)

Week 4 (Sept 26 & 28): States & Governments

Readings

Textbook, Chapters 3 & 4

Week 5 (Oct. 3 & 5): Constitutions

Reading

Textbook, Chapter 6: 'Designing and Limiting Governments by Constitutions' – Stephen Phillips
Additional readings in D2L

Week 6 (Oct. 10 & 12): Fall Reading Week (No Class)

Week 7 (Oct. 17 & 19): Branches of Government

Reading

Textbook, Chapters 7, 8, & 9

[Note: Annotated Bibliography due on Tuesday October 17]

Week 8 (Oct. 24 & 26): Mid-Term Exam

Oct 24: Revision

Oct. 26 (exam in class)

Week 9 (Oct 31. & Nov 2): Citizenship and Political Participation

Reading

Textbook, Chapters 10 & 11

Additional readings in D2L

[Note: November 3 is the final date for withdrawing from this course without academic penalty]

Week 10 (Nov. 7 & 9): Political Culture and Socialisation

Reading

Andrew Heard, 'Political Culture and Socialisation: The Media and Other Mind Shapers',
Chapter 5 in Rand Dyck (ed.) *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science 4e*
(Toronto: Nelson 2012), pp 102-131

Additional readings in D2L

Week 11 (Nov. 14 & 16): Gender and Politics

Reading

Linda Trimble, 'Gender and Politics,' in Janine Brodie and Sandra Rein (eds.) *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 4e* (Toronto: Pearson 2009), pp.

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

Emily Starr and Michele Adams, 'The Domestic Exotic: Mail-Order Brides and the Paradox of Globalized Intimacies', *Signs*, 41: 4 (Summer 2016): 953-975

Zerbisias, A. (2010). 'Feminomics: Calculating the value of 'women's work''', *Toronto Star*,
October 30, 2010

https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2010/10/30/feminomics_calculating_the_value_of_womens_work.html

Week 12 (Nov. 21 & 23): Indigenous People and the State

Reading

John Burrows, 'Questioning Canada's Title to Land: The Rule of Law, Aboriginal Peoples and Colonialism' in Chapter 5 in *Recovering Canada: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law*,
(Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002), pp.

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

Week 13 (Nov 28 & 30): Globalisation and World Politics

Reading

Textbook, Chapter 15

Additional readings in D2L

[Note: Final paper due on Monday, December 4]