

Lakehead University Orillia Campus

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLI3517 FAO Modern Political Thought: Politics and the Novel

Monday and Wednesday 8:30-10:00AM OA1025

DR. D. WEST

Office: OA3019

Office Hours: Monday – 10:00-11:00AM

Telephone: 2647

This course focuses on the use of the novel in Western-European culture as a commentary on contemporary political experiences. For example, the novels that will be covered in this course aim to convey to the reader the power of the political will, ideological bias, gender politics, religion and civic engagement, among other political themes. Throughout the course we will read these books as they speak to their time and to our own, encouraging an historical perspective on the development of Western – European political ideas.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation \* 10%

Book Review \*\* 20%

Review Essay \*\*\* 40%

Final Take-Home Examination \*\*\*\* 30%

\*Attendance will be taken each class.

\*\* Each student must submit one 5-7 page book review **DUE ON OCTOBER 1st by midnight. All submissions must be in MSWord format and submitted to dwest@lakeheadu.ca** Each student is required to give an overview of their understanding of a specific novel **OTHER THAN THE NOVEL FOR WHICH THEY ARE WRITING THEIR REVIEW ESSAY**. Late penalties will be 1% deduction for every day late. Reasonable extensions may be negotiated.

\*\*\*The review essay will be approximately 10-12 pages in length. (APA style) and consist of an in-depth thematic analysis of one of the novels discussed in the course. Late penalties will be 1% deduction for every day late. Reasonable extensions may be negotiated. **All submissions must be in MSWord format and submitted to dwest@lakeheadu.ca**

\*\*\*\* The final take-home examination will be handed out in the last class and must be returned by the following Monday by midnight. **All submissions must be in MSWord format and submitted to dwest@lakeheadu.ca** Late penalties will be 1% reduction for every day late. There will be no extensions granted.

**Students are also responsible for knowing and following the Code of Student Conduct at Lakehead University.**

## REQUIRED TEXTS

All available at the Orillia Campus Bookstore

**Utopia**. Thomas More

**Frankenstein**. Mary Shelley

**Darkness at Noon**, Arthur Koestler

**Continental Drift**. Russell Banks

**Linden Hills**. Gloria Naylor

**The Songlines**. Bruce Chatwin

## SCHEDULE

September 4 – Organization – Plato’s Myth of Atlantis

September 9-18 – **Utopia**

September 23-October 2 – **Frankenstein**

October 7-23 - **Darkness at Noon**

October 28-November 6 – **Continental Drift**

November 11-20 – **Linden Hills**

November 25 -December 2 – **The Songlines**

## GUIDELINES FOR BOOK REVIEW

1-Length is 5-7 pages typed, double-spaced. (12 point font)

2-The following elements must be addressed:

The Author’s main thesis

Your commentary on Author’s style of presentation

A discussion of the setting(s) of Novel

A description and purpose of main and subsidiary characters

A short discussion of the political significance of Novel – in its time and in our time.

**3-No outside sources may be used for this exercise.**

### **GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW ESSAY**

1-Length is 10-12 pages typed, double-spaced (12 point font)

2-The following elements must be addressed:

The Author's political and social background

5 (or more) important political and social themes that the Author addresses in the Novel

An analysis of the significance of the Novel's themes for contemporary politics

An appreciation of the secondary literature written about the Author and the Novel

3-At least 10 outside sources should be consulted. Internet sources must be verified and authoritative.

### **GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOM MEETINGS**

The first part of every class will consist of lecture material and thematic analysis of the work under consideration. The last portion of the class will be devoted to general discussion. Students are encouraged to bring questions that can be shared with the rest of the class.