Political Science 1100: Introduction to Political Science

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- **Consultation:** students may contact me through the course e-mail or via my personal Lakehead University e-mail account: sislam2@lakeheadu.ca.

INTRODUCING MYSELF

Hi, everyone! Welcome to the course on Introduction to Political Science. Before getting into the course outline, I want to briefly introduce myself. This is Dr. Islam, Professor of Political Science at Lakehead University. I graduated with my doctorate, Ph.D. from McGill University. Since obtaining my doctorate, I have been teaching this course and courses in international law and politics. I have taught at many universities in many countries of the world. I have written 9 books and nearly 80 articles in internationally reputable journals. If you would like to know more about me, please visit my bio on the Political Science website of Lakehead University.

Let's now go through the course outline

Course Description

This course introduces students to the basic concepts and notions of Political Science in the areas of political theory, comparative politics, public administration, and international relations. As such, the course offers a survey of the basic concepts which animate discussion about the nature of society, government, and politics.

Examples will be drawn from Canada as well as from other countries of the world.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of the course are as follows:

1. to serve as a preparatory study for students majoring in Political Science and as a general overview for students of other concentrations;
2. to understand the nature and scope of politics and how it affects people's lives directly and indirectly, and
3. to understand the reasons why Political Science should be studied by the Canadian students in particular in any discipline.

Textbook (Mandatory)

A.R. Moten and S. Serajul Islam, *Introduction to Political Science* (Cengage Nelson Learning). Available through LU Bookstore. $57.95

Marking Scheme

Tests	Dates	Time	Mark
Mid Term Test	**Opens on July 20, 6 a.m. and submit by July22, 10 a.m. EST**	52 hrs	40%
Final Exam	**Opens on August 13, 6 a.m. & submit by August 15, 10a.m .EST**	52 hrs	40%
Participation	In discussion sessions	6 weeks	20%

TEST AND EXAMINATION

Preparation:

There is a mid-term test and the final examination. The mid-term test is worth 40% and the final examination is worth 40%. The test and examination will be taken **ONLINE** from any computer, even from your home. The mid-term test and the final examination must be taken on the assigned dates. Both the mid-term test and the

final examination will consist of essay-type questions drawn from the text book and modules. You will have full 52 hours to write the answers and submit the tests online. The main answers will be available in the TEXT BOOK and MODULES. You may have to answer some questions from your common sense. The modules are helpful in understanding the readings from text book. No Readings or No question will come from the parts of the textbook in each chapter which deal with Muslim/Islamic world.

The mid-term test will cover the materials discussed in the first 9 modules and corresponding readings from the text book.

The final examination will cover the materials discussed in the last 11 (10-20) modules and corresponding readings from the text book.

The mid-term and the final QUESTIONS are to be found in ASSIGNMENTS on the course navigation bar during the scheduled dates . Submit your answers in the Dropbox via submission folder before the due date and time, EST.

Discussion Forums

The discussion forums are areas where you can review concepts, discuss difficulties you may be having with a particular concept, collaborate with peers, or to discuss just about anything you want to share with your fellow students. **Mandatory participation in discussion forums/sessions is required to obtain participation marks.**

TOPIC: For participation marks in discussion forums, students are required to comment on the discussion questions.

- **Participation marks will be determined on the basis of quantity of threads/postings and quality of comments in Discussion. (Overall Marks will be given only at the end of the course not after every forum)**.

I will be visiting the discussion forum regularly but **marks will be disclosed only at the end of the term.**

Each discussion session will be closed every Monday at 6 am. (except the last week).

Tips for Participating on a Discussion Board

- Think ideas through before responding. You do not want your response to be considered flaming. It often helps to outline responses before responding. Be polite and respectful.
- Use good communication skills. Keep your comments concise, but do meet the requirements posted for discussion by the instructor. Avoid brief affirmations such as "Amen", "Ditto", and "I agree". Don't quote or copy long passages form a previous post. Quote only the relevant portions to make your response clear.
- Pay careful attention to instructions. Be sensitive with your use of language.
- Use subject lines in your post to keep the flow going for a certain discussion item. Be sure to change the subject line if you are changing the direction of the discussion.
- Try to stay on track and respond directly to comments being made. (Adapted from DakotaStateUniversity, Distance Education Orientation website)

Modules/Readings Outline

Dates	Schedule	Topic	Readings
Week 1 July 2-8	Topic 1A	Political Science, Politics and Political Science Power, influence, and Authority	Modules 1, 2,3 Chapters Intro, 1, 2,3,,4
	Topic 1B	State,	Module 4, and Chapter, 5
Week 2 July 8-15	Topic 2A	Government: Types	Module 5 and Chapters 6,7,8
	Topic 2B	Organs of Government Executive and Legislature	Modules 6,7 and Chapters 10,11,12
Week 3	Topic 3A	Law, Judiciary Constitution	Modules 8,9 and Chapters 9, 13

July 15 -22	**Topic 3B**	**MID - TERM TEST Prepare &Write**	**ON-LINE 5 short essays**
Week 4 July 23-29	Topic 4A	Party System & Pressure Groups Election	Modules 10,11,12 and chapters 19,20,21
	Topic 4B	Political Ideologies, Liberalism Conservatism, Socialism	Modules 13 and Chapters 15
Week 5 Jul 29 Au5	Topic 5A	Nationalism, Feminism, Environmentalism	Modules 14,15,16 and Chapters 16,17,18
	Topic 5B	Local Government Public opinion, Media	Modules 17,18 and chapters22
Week 6 Aug5-Au12 Aug 13 -15	Topic 6A	Violence, Revolution,Terrorism International System	Modules 19,20 and chapters 23,24, 25
	Topic 6B	**FINAL EXAMINATION, Prepare & Write**	**ON-LINE 5 short essays**