

# Political Science 1100: Introduction to Political Science. 2024-2025

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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](mailto:sislam2@lakeheadu.ca).

OR MEET ME in my office on each Tuesday between 2.30 -3.30 Pm or by appointment.

## 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.

## Marking Scheme

Tests	Dates	Time	Mark
End of Semester Test	<b>Opens on December 12 at 6 a.m. and submit by December 12 at 11.59 p.m. EST</b>	all day	30%
Final Exam	<b>Opens on April 15, at 6 a.m. &amp; submit by April15, at 11.59 p.m..EST</b>	all day	40%
Participation	In discussion sessions	24 weeks	30%

## TEST AND EXAMINATION

### Preparation:

There is a End of the term test and the final examination. The End of the term test is worth 30% and the final examination is worth 40%. The test and examination will be taken **ONLINE** from any computer, even from your home. The End of the term test and the final examination must be taken on the assigned dates. Both the End of the term test and the final examination will consist of essay-type questions drawn from the text book and modules. You will have full day 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 End of the 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.**

**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 and engage in debates in responding to others' comments..

- **Participation marks will be determined on the basis of *Quantity* (Number 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. Please be careful, any direct use of AI will be considered as academic dishonesty for which appropriate action may be taken**

**Each discussion session will be closed/opened every Monday at 6 am.**

### **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 from 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**

### **LECTURE OUTLINE**

- Week 1: Introduction: An Overview of the Course  
What is Politics? Manifestation of Politics  
Readings: 1-7
- Week 2: Transmission of Politics  
Readings: 7-13  
Political Science: Nature and Scope  
Readings: 21-33
- Week 3: Political Science: Development of the Discipline - Ancient  
Readings: 47-52
- Week 4: Political Science: Development of the Discipline – Medieval, and Modern  
Readings: 52-62
- Week 5: State and Government: Origins:  
Readings: 67-78
- Week 6: Government: Classifications: Traditional and Modern, Democracy vs.  
Dictatorship. Readings: 85-97
- Week 7: Federal vs. Unitary Systems  
Readings: 99-109

Week 8: Parliamentary vs. Presidential Systems

Readings: 113-136

Week 9: Organs of Government: Executive and the Bureaucracy

Readings: 167-180, 183-195

Week 10: Legislature:

Readings: 149-166

Week 11: Law and the Judiciary

Readings: 197-215

Week 12: Constitution and Constitutionalism

Readings: 137-148

## **END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 12, 2024**

### **WINTER SEMESTER**

Week 1 Power, Influence, Authority, and Sovereignty

Readings: 33-45

Week 2: Political Ideologies:

Conservatism

Readings: 235-237

Week 3: Liberalism

Readings: 227-235

Week 4: Socialism and Communism: Comparisons of three ideologies

Readings: 238-244

Week 5: Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism - Fascism and Nazism, Anarchism

Readings: 247-252

Week 5: Nation, Nation State and Nationalism

Readings: 2253-259, 297

Week 6: Political Parties and Party Systems

Readings: 299-314

Week 7: Pressure /Interest Groups

Readings: 317-326

Week 8: Elections and Electoral Systems

Readings: 327-340

Week 9: Municipal Government:

Readings: Lecture/Module

Week 9: Public Opinion, Media and Politics

Readings: 341-351

Week 10: Feminism and Environmentalism

Readings: Chapters 17 & 18

Week 11: Political Gladiators and Political Leadership: Module

Readings: Chapter 19

Week: 11: Politics of Terrorism, Revolution and Political Violence

Readings: 353-367

Week: 12: The International System

Readings: Chapters 26 & 27

Week 12: CONCLUSIONS: Provocative Scenarios: Module

**FINAL EXAMINATION – APRIL 15, 2025**