

POLI-1100-YB: Introduction to Political Science

Course Outline

Fall/Winter 2016/17

Instructor: Dr. Zubairu Wai

Office: RB 2041

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

Email: zubawai@lakeheadu.ca

Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30pm-4:00pm, RB-2047

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.

Learning Objectives

This course 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 with questions of power and politics they confront on a day to day basis.

By the end of the course, 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 contested nature of politics and the social relations it makes possible.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

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 two essays and take three exams.

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation:	10%
Mid-term Exam (fall):	20%
Fall Term paper:	20%
Winter Term Paper:	25%
End of year Exam:	25%

Attendance & Participation: (worth 10% of the final grade)

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.

Fall:

- (a) **Mid-term Exam in fall (worth 20% of the final grade)** will be conducted **in class on Thursday, October 27, 2016**. It is a 30 minutes 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.
- (b) **Fall term paper (worth 20% of the final grade)** to be handed in class on or before **Wednesday, December 1**. It is a review essay intended to test the grasp of some of the basic concepts in political studies. The essay may be on any of the concepts covered in the course up to the end of the fall term and should competently demonstrate familiarity with the concept chosen and its relevance for politics. It should be 5 (double-spaced) pages long.

[Examination Period for fall is December 9–19. There will be no end of term exam for this course in fall]

Winter:

- (a) Winter term paper (**worth 25% of final grade**) to be handed in class on **Thursday, April 6, 2017**; that is, the last day of lectures for the course. It is a longer essay, and may be on any topic in political science. It should be between 10 and 12 double-spaced pages (not including the title page and bibliography of works cited).
- (b) The **final exam (worth 25% of final grade)** will be a three hour test conducted at the end of the winter 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 politics, and section two will consist of essay type questions that require students to provide longer and detailed essay type answers.

[Note: The examination period is between April 10 and 22. There will be an end of year exam for this course. It is the responsibility of students to check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course)

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 and should be handed in on or before the due date in class. Manipulating the margins or font size will be penalised.
- Barring any extenuating circumstance, all written assignments must be submitted on time, otherwise a 2 per cent penalty will apply each day the essay is late.
- For citation and referencing, please use either **Harvard or Chicago referencing style** for all written work. Failure to follow these instructions will affect your grade.
- The essays will be evaluated based on grasp of the topic, quality of argument, depth of analysis, originality of approach, familiarity with the issues and literature, as well as structure, organisation, grammar, referencing and formatting.

Required Texts

1. Janine Brodie and Sandra Rein (eds.) *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* 4e (Toronto: Pearson 2009)
2. 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 2016)

I. THINKING POWER & POLITICS

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Tuesday, September 6: General Introduction

(No assigned readings)

Thursday, September 8

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 1: Studying Politics: An Introduction – Christopher G. Anderson

Week 2 (September 13 & 15): Power and Politics

Reading

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 1: 'Power and Politics— Janine Brodie

[Note: September 19 is the Final Date of Registration]

Week 3 (September 20 & 22): Traditions of Political Thought

Reading

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 2: Traditions of Political Thought— Roger Epp

Week 4: (September 27 & 29): Modern Political Ideologies

Reading

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 2: Thinking about Politics: Ideas and Ideologies in Politics – Richard Sigurdson

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 5: Radical Politics—Sandra Rein

II. FORMATIONS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS

Week 5 (October 4 & 6): The State

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 6: The Modern State—Lois Harder

Week 6 (October 11 & 13): Fall Reading Week (No Class)

Week 7 (October 18 & 20): Government & Political Systems

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 3: States and Governments: Perpetual Works in Progress –
Christopher G. Anderson

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 7: Regimes—Fred Judson and Sandra Rein

Week 8: Revisions & Mid-term Exam

Tuesday, October 25

Revisions

Thursday, October 27

Midterm (Exam in class)

Week 9: (November 1 & 3): Constitutions

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 6: Designing and Limiting Governments by Constitutions –
Stephen Phillips

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 8: Constitutions and the Rule of Law—Ian Urquhart

Week 10: (November 8 & 10): The Legislature

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 8: Legislatures: Centre Stage But Not Top Billing – David
Docherty and John Kurt Edwards

Week 11 (November 15 & 17): The Executive

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 7: The Political Executive and Bureaucracy: On Top and
On Tap – Stephen Phillips

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 9: Public Bureaucracy—Marcia Nelson and Steve Patten

Week 12 (November 22 & 24): The Judiciary

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 9: The Judiciary: Politics, Law, and the Courts – Matthew Hennigar

Week 13 (November 29 & December 1) Revisions

Taking stock of what we have learnt so far.

[Note: Short paper due at the end of class on December 1. There will be no exam at the end of the fall semester for this course]

WINTER (2017)

PRODUCTION OF POLITICS: SITES, PROCESSES & AGENTS

Week 1 (January 10 & 12): Political Culture and Socialisation

Readings

Andrew Heard, 'Political Culture and Socialisation: The Media and Other Mind Shapers', Chapter 5 in 2.Rand Dyck (ed.) Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science 4e (Toronto: Nelson 2012), pp 102-131

Week 2 (January 17 & 19): Citizenship and Political Participation

Reading

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 12: Citizens and Citizenship—Christina Gabriel

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 10: Democracies in Action: Elections, Political Participation, and Citizens' Power – Amanda Bittne

Week 3 (January 24 & 26): Political Parties and Electoral Politics

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 11: Political Parties: Imperfect but Essential – Anna Esselment

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 11: Political Parties and Elections-Shauna Wilton

Week 4 (Jan. 31 & Feb 2): Identity and the Politics of Diversity

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 4: States and Nations: Cultural Pluralism, Nationalism, and Identity – Yasmeen Abu-Laban

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 16: The Politics of Diversity—Rita Dhamoon

Week 5 (Feb. 7 & 9): Gender and Politics

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 14: Gender and Politics—Linda Trimble

Vicky Randall, 'Feminism' in David Marsh, Gerry Stoker (eds.) Theory and Methods in Political Science 3e (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), pp. 114-135

[Note: Friday February 10, 2017, is the final date for withdrawal from this course without academic penalty]

Week 6 (Feb. 14 & 16): Indigenous Peoples, Violence and the State

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 17: Indigenous Peoples—Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez

Week 7 (Feb 21 & 23): [STUDY BREAK: FEBRUARY 20 – 24; NO CLASS]

Week 8 (Feb. 28 & March 2): The Environment

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 18: Environmental Politics—Laurie E. Adkin

Week 9 (March 7 & 9): Social Movements and Political Change

Readings

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 12: Civil Society: The Study of Power. Intrigue. Passion – Rachel LaForest

THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Week 10 (March 14 & 16): Global Politics and the Modern World System

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 22: International Relations—Juris Lejnieks and Chapter 20: The West and the Rest—Mojtaba Mahdavi

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 15: International Relations: Global Anarchy, Conflict, and Cooperation – Claire Turenne-Sjolander

Week 11 (March 21 & 23): Global Political Economy in the Era of Globalisation

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 24: Global Political Economy—Rob Aitken, and Chapter 27: Rethinking Poverty in a Global era—Malinda Smith

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 5: States and Economies: Studying Political Economy in Political Science – Rodney Haddow, and Chapter 13: The Politics of Development – Michelle Bonner

Week 12 (March 28 & 30): Violence, Militarism & Global (Dis)Order

Readings

Brodie and Rein, Chapter 19: Political Violence—Sean F. McMahon; and Chapter 21: Global (Dis)Orders—W. Andy Knight

Anderson and Dyck, Chapter 14: Regime Change and Persistence – Arjun Chowdhury
and Chapter 16: Security in Pieces: Approaches to the Study of Security in
International Politics – Sandy Irvine

Week 13 (April 4 & 6): Conclusion: Taking Stock [What did we miss?]

[Note: Final paper due in class on April 6]

[Note: The examination period is between April 10 and 22. There will be a final exam for this course. It is the responsibility of students to check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course]