

Grande Prairie Regional College

PO 1010 (Section T2 & TC)

Introduction to Political Studies: Ideas and Forms of Government

Course Dates/Times: Monday, Wednesday; 2:30 – 3:50 pm
Term: Fall 2009

Instructor: Dawn Moffat McMaster
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Office hours: Tues., 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Wed., 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

I am also available outside these hours by appointment.

Course Credit: 3 credits
Student Contact Hours: 45
Transferability: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, KUC, Other¹
Delivery Mode: Lecture – live & via videoconference
Prerequisites: None

College Calendar Course Description:

This course is an introduction to key political concepts such as power, authority, order, equality, freedom and justice. These concepts are examined as they are used by different ideologies including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, anarchism, feminism, postmodernism, and religious fundamentalism. Political ideas and practices are also examined in the context of democratic, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of government. The role of the news media under different kinds of regime may also be considered.

Course Objectives:

This course, along with Political Studies 1020, is designed to introduce you to the political world and the academic study of it. PO1010 is intended to:

- encourage you to think about the rights and obligations of citizens, the roles of law and government, the requirements of democracy, and the nature of different forms of government;
- provide you with a basic knowledge of key political ideas and concepts, and of the main political ideologies;
- also encourage you to appreciate the value of thinking clearly and systematically about the political world around us;
- prepare you for further studies in politics at the postsecondary level.

¹ Please note that transfer to some institutions requires that you complete both PO 1010 & 1020. Please consult your advisor to ensure you have the correct requirements for the institution you plan to transfer to.

Required Texts:

- Mark Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan and Brenda O'Neill. An Introduction to Government and Politics: 8th Edition: Toronto. Nelson, 2010.
- Course Package readings.
- Internet and database readings as listed in the syllabus.
- Occasional readings assigned by instructor in class.

Course Policies:

Full participation in class will require:

- Demonstration that you have completed the assigned readings.
- An active role in group work and class discussions.
- Completion of all course requirements on time.
 - You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for your papers. My preferred style is MLA (a guide is available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>), but any proper citation style (i.e. Chicago, APA) will be accepted.
 - Assignments will be submitted on paper in class, and electronically by 5 p.m. on the due date. Paper copies are easier for me to read, and allow me to provide you with notes on specific elements of your assignment. Electronic copies provide me with the option of submission to an online plagiarism detection service in the case that plagiarism is suspected. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE COPY WHICH IS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY MATCHES THE PAPER COPY RECEIVED IN CLASS.
 - Late assignments will be docked 3% for each day they are late. If extenuating circumstances necessitate an extension on an assignment, you are required to speak with me AHEAD OF TIME, and appropriate paperwork (i.e. a medical note) may be required. Also, please note that you are required to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. You should take this into account when making any travel plans.

For information on key dates and other important matters, please refer to the GPRC Calendar.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences (i.e. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: A Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty) and/or suspension or expulsion from the College).

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Rights & Responsibilities section of the GPRC Calendar, available online at www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/.

If I suspect plagiarism on assignments, I reserve the right to submit these to an online plagiarism detection service, as specified on p. 49 of the GPRC Calendar.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a physical, sensory or learning disability, please let me know. We can contact the designated advisor in Student Services to arrange and facilitate a variety of accommodations, on an individual case basis, to make this class work for you. For more information, please visit www.gprc.ab.ca/students/disabilities/.

Classroom Conduct:

GPRC has committed to promote an environment free of harassment or discrimination where respect will be given to ethnic, cultural, religious, and lifestyle diversity, and expects individuals will conduct themselves with respect for one another. This means your behavior should exhibit respect for yourselves, each other, the instructor, and the course material. As such:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared.
- Laptops and cellphones are permitted in class, with a few caveats.
 - Cellphones should be on silent or vibrate mode, and I expect you wait to check calls or messages until after class. If an emergency requires otherwise, I expect you to advise me at the beginning of class.
 - Laptops are to be used for class work ONLY. Students carrying out other activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home.
- Working on assignments for other courses is not permitted. Students doing so will be asked to leave the class.
- Expressing criticism or annoyance with a view expressed by another person, either through a comment, audible noise, facial expression or body language, unless you are prepared to debate your position openly in class.
- Regular attendance. If you know you are going to be absent from class, I expect you to contact me prior to class with a reason. Students who miss an excessive number of classes may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar on p. 45.

Course Evaluation Requirements:

Participation	10%
Political Values Assignment.....	15%
Midterm Exam.....	20%
Political Analysis Paper.....	25%
Final Exam.....	30%

Participation: You will be required to complete 5 in-class quizzes/assignments at random throughout the semester. Each assignment will be worth 2% the participation grade.

Political Values Assignment:

This assignment is designed to get students acquainted with their inner-political values. Some of you may have thought about where you stand on the political spectrum. You may think of yourself as left-wing or right-wing, or identify with the political party that most closely approximates where you stand. Others may be much less acquainted with where they stand politically and this assignment may help shed some light for these students.

This assignment is designed to help you determine where you stand on the political spectrum.

1. Write a 1 – 2 page summary of what you believe your political values are.
2. Complete the political values test at found at www.politicalcompass.org, and print off the chart offered at the end. Include this in your paper.
3. Write brief 1 – 2 page reflection on the assignment and whether your political values closely approximate where you thought they would be.

This assignment is **due on Wed., Sept. 23** at the beginning of class.

Political Analysis Paper: You will be required to read/view a text on current political issue from a list I will provide in class and write a paper responding to this text. The paper will be between 6 – 8 pages, and will demonstrate that you can find links between the material studied in class and the political issues in the text. I will supply you with a handout in class which will outline in greater detail what I expect from this paper. The response paper will be **due on Wed., Nov. 18** at the beginning of class.

Midterm & Final Exam: My exams generally have short and long answer questions, as well as some multiple choice or matching questions. The mid-term will obviously deal with material covered to date. The final exam will be cumulative, although emphasis will be on the second half of the semester.

Marks will be given in percentages before being converted to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+	90 – 100%	B+	76 – 79%	C+	67 – 69%	D+	55 – 59%
A	85 – 89%	B	73 – 75%	C	64 – 66%	D	50 – 54%
A-	80 – 84%	B-	70 – 72%	C-	60 – 63%	F	0 – 49%

For conversion to the 4-point grading scale, please see the Academic Regulations and Grading section of the GPRC Calendar, available online at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>.

Schedule of Lectures & Readings (subject to alteration, upon consent of instructor and students)	
Sept. 3 – 4	No Class
Sept. 7 – 11 *Mon., Sept. 7 – Labour Day (Week 1)	Section I: Introducing Concepts of Political Science. Introduction & Course Overview Studying Society, Government & Politics Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Introduction & Ch. 1
Sept. 14 – 18 (Week 2)	Power, Legitimacy & Authority Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 2 (continued on next page)

	<p>Sovereignty, State & Citizenship</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 3 & 4 • CP. Judith Garber. "Ch. 13: Community." <u>Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics.</u>
<p>Sept. 21 – 25</p> <p>(Week 3)</p>	<p>Law & Constitutionalism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 6 & 7 • CP: Joshua Key. "Epilogue." The Deserter's Tale. <p>Martin Luther King. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Available at http://historicaltextarchive.com/sections.php?op=viewarticle&artid=40</p> <p>Philosophy, Ideology & Political Theory</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>D, F & O Text: Ch. 9</p> <p>Wed., Sept. 23: POLITICAL VALUES ASSIGNMENT DUE</p>
<p>Sept. 28 – Oct. 2</p> <p>(Week 4)</p>	<p>Section II: Political Philosophy & Theory</p> <p>Liberalism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 10 • Neil Reynolds. "Ignatieff Plays Fast & Loose with Liberal Creed." The Globe and Mail, 23 July 2009. Available online at http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/commentary/ignatieff-plays-fast-and-loose-with-liberal-creed/article1226710/ • Michael Lind. "Is it OK to be Liberal again, instead of Progressive?" Salon.com, 21 Nov. 2008. Available online at http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2008/11/21/liberals/index.html
<p>Oct. 5 – 9</p> <p>(Week 5)</p>	<p>Conservatism, Neo-conservatism & Populism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 11 • Stockwell Day. "Conservatism in Contemporary Canadian Politics." 28 April 2000. Available at (continued next page) http://www.conservativeforum.org/EssaysForm.asp?ID=6295. • CP. Roger Gibbins & Loleen Youngman. "Populism."
<p>Oct. 12 – 16</p> <p>*Mon., Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving</p>	<p>Wed., Oct. 14 – MIDTERM EXAM</p>
<p>Oct 19 – 23</p> <p>(Week 6)</p>	<p>Socialism & Communism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 12 • Albert Einstein. "Why Socialism?" Available at http://archive.8m.net/einstein.htm
<p>Oct. 26 – 30</p> <p>(Week 7)</p>	<p>Nationalism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D, F & O Text: Ch. 13 (continued on next page)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP. Muller, Jerry Z., Richard Rosencrance and Arthur Stein. "Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable?" <u>Crosscurrents: International Relations</u>. P. 92 – 114. Michael Ignatieff. "Blood and Belonging" (This is a DVD which we will be watching in class.)
Nov. 2 – 6 (Week 8)	<p>Contemporary Political Thought (Post-modernism, Feminism & Environmentalism) Readings (Postmodernism):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Klages, "Postmodernism Again." Available online at www.colorado.edu/English/courses/ENGL2012Klages/pomo.html. Dino Felluga. "General Introduction to Postmodernism." Introductory Guide to Critical Theory. http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/theory/postmodernism/modules/introduction.html <p>Readings (Feminism):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D, F & O Text: Ch. 14 CP. Linda Trimble. "The Politics of Feminism: An Introduction."
Nov. 9 – 13 *Wed., Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day (Week 9)	<p>Contemporary Political Thought (cont.) Readings (Environmentalism):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D, F & O Text: Ch. 15 CP. Adkin, Laurie E. "Ch. 18: Environmental Politics." In <u>Critical Concepts: an introduction to politics</u>. P. 237 – 249.
Nov. 16 – 20 (Week 10)	<p>Ideologies & Canada Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP. Thomas W. Joseph. "Ch. 7: Political Players." <u>Essentials of Canadian Politics and Government</u>. <p>Wed., Nov. 18 – ANALYSIS PAPER DUE</p>
Nov. 23 – 27 (Week 11)	<p>Section III – Basic Forms of Government Classifications of Government Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D, F & O Text: Ch. 16 <p>Authoritarianism & Totalitarianism Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D, F & O Text: Ch 19
Nov. 30 – Dec. 4 (Week 12)	<p>Liberal Democracy Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D, F & O Text: Ch. 17 <p>Transitions to Democracy Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D, F & O Text: Ch. 18 Robert Putnam, "The Decline of Civil Society: How Come? So What?" 22 Feb. 1996. Pages 1-21 at http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/SC91-4-1996E.pdf.
Dec. 7	Exam Review

