

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 1030

## "MODERN POLITICAL ISSUES"

Fall, 1999  
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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the nature of law, the state, and citizenship with application to some contemporary controversies in politics drawing in particular on Canada's current political issues (eg. abortion, rights of first nations peoples, economic justice, and constitutional reform).

Beginning with the fundamental principles of democratic citizenship, these principles will be examined with reference to the nature of law, fundamental rights, constitutionalism, and a brief survey of Canada's basic institutions of government. The course then applies these principles to several specific issues of importance to Canadians including freedom of the press, native self-government, economic and social justice, abortion, and capital punishment. In addition to class readings, students should attempt to keep up to date on major news events since these will be discussed in the context of the course.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a sound theoretical understanding of the nature of law, democracy, and rights.
2. To be able to apply the above principles to contemporary political controversies in Canada and elsewhere.

Pre-requisite:

There is no pre-requisite for this course. This course is designed for students who want a single junior level course about politics. Students who intend to major in political science are advised to take Political Science 1000 (a full year introductory course).

Texts:

Students must obtain the required text for this course. In addition to the text readings, some required readings will be distributed in class (the constitution, the Charlottetown Accord, etc.). For students wishing further background (not required) reading, a reserve list has been established for this course and further recommendations are available from the instructor. Students **must** prepare for class by doing the readings in advance of the lectures.

1. Don Carmichael, Tom Pocklington, and Greg Pyrcz, Democracy and Rights in Canada, (Toronto: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991).

Course Requirements:

Readings will be tested before the lecture on the topic through responses to the readings of which the best 6 of 9 will count toward the final grade. A term paper is optional in this course. Students wishing to do a term paper must consult with the instructor and clear their topic on or by the third lecture. There will be a midterm examination covering materials taken to that date and a final take-home examination. The final examination will cover materials primarily since the midterm but some material from before the midterm will be included.

	Term Paper Route	Examination Route	Date
Responses (best 6 of 9)	30%	40%	See Schedule
Midterm examination	20%	25%	Oct 20 (tentative)
Final Examination	30%	35%	Exam Week
Paper	20%	-	Due November 17

**QUIZ DATES AND GRADE SHEET:**

Please use this sheet to record your grades and to keep track of the dates of the quizzes:

Response 1	Democracy and Rights	_____
Response 2	Participation	_____
Response 3	Freedom of the Press/Obedience	_____
Response 4	Welfare State	_____
Response 5	Quebec and Native Self Govt.	_____
Response 6	Gender	_____
Response 7	Abortion and Pornography	_____
Response 8	Capital Punishment	_____
Response 9	General Concepts/Review	_____
Midterm	Lecture 1 through 6	_____
Final	Lecture 7 through 12 plus	_____
Term Paper Topic Due Week 3		_____
Paper due November 17		_____

## LECTURE OUTLINE AND READINGS LIST

Students are responsible for the required readings and class material. An effort should also be made to keep up to date on current events. Materials should be read **before** class. Lecture dates and topics are tentative and may be rescheduled or revised. Additional and/or replacement readings may, from time to time, be assigned.

### 1. BASIC INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

#### 2. DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS

Carmichael et. al., chapter 1

#### 3. DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Carmichael et. al., chapter 3

#### 4. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND CONTROL OF INFORMATION

Carmichael et. al., chapter 8

#### 5. POLITICAL (DIS)OBEDIENCE

Carmichael et. al., chapter 9

#### 6. THE WELFARE STATE AND SOCIAL PROGRAM ENTITLEMENTS

Carmichael et. al., chapter 4

"The Right to Health Care" (to be distributed)

#### 7. MIDTERM EXAMINATION/Multiculturalism

"Multiculturalism and the Right to Recognition" (to be distributed)

#### 8. NATIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT/Quebec

Dufour, *A Canadian Challenge*, pp. 91-100.

Carmichael et. al., chapter 7

#### 9. GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Carmichael et. al., chapter 5

#### 10. ABORTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

Wilson, 'Abortion and Women's Rights'

McIntyre, 'Abortion and the Charter'

#### 11. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Readings: TBA

#### 12. REVIEW/TOWARD A NEW WORLD ORDER

Readings TBA

## RESERVE READINGS

The following readings are on reserve in the library for your convenience. While **not** required, each of these readings provides greater background than the texts and should be read by students contemplating a term paper on the topic in question or by students wishing to round out their readings with an emphasis on cases or depth. Additional readings can and often will be recommended by the instructor.

### I. BASIC PRINCIPLES AND BACKGROUND

#### **A) BASIC PRINCIPLES**

Bertrand Russell, "Political Ideals," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 3-6. (Reserve Book)

Tom Campbell, "Introduction: Realizing Human Rights," in T. Campbell et. al. (eds.), Human Rights: From Rhetoric to Reality. (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1986), pp. 1-14. (Reserve # 1)

John Rawls, "The Principles of Justice," and J.R. Lucas, "The Theory of Rawls," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies, (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 60-65. (Reserve Book)

#### **B) RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND THE CHARTER**

R. Knopf and F. L. Morton, Charter Politics. (Scarborough: Nelson, 1992), pp. 13-34.  
Ian Greene, The Charter of Rights. (Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1989), pp. 208-228.  
(Reserve # 2)

Keith Banting and Richard Simeon, "Federalism, Democracy and the Constitution Act," in Keith Banting and Richard Simeon (eds.), And No-One Cheered: Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution Act. (Toronto: Methuen, 1984) (Reserve # 3)

#### **C) FEDERALISM AND RIGHTS**

The 'Meech Lake Accord' (NOTE: this is to be distributed in class but is not required reading)

A. Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake," in K.E. Swinton and C. J. Rogerson (eds.), Competing Constitutional Visions: The Meech Lake Accord. (Toronto: Carswell, 1988), pp. 247-262.  
(Reserve # 4)

#### **D) LIBERTY: J.S. MILL**

J. S. Mill, "Of Individuality, As One of the Elements of Well-Being," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies. (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 38-40. (Reserve Book)

D.N. Husak, "Paternalism and Autonomy," Philosophy and Public Affairs Vol. 10 No. 1 (Winter, 1981). pp. 27-46. (Reserve # 5)

#### **E) NATIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT**

W. Cragg, Contemporary Moral Issues (2nd ed.). (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1987). pp. 341-399.  
(Reserve # 6)

Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics (2nd ed.). (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991) 'Oka and Native Rights' (Reserve # 7)

#### **F) GENDER, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY**

Stephen Satris (ed.), Taking Sides (3rd. ed.), pp. 110-1 ('Is Feminism a Harmful Ideology?') (Reserve # 8)

Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics (2nd ed.). (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991). ('Canada's Abortion Saga') (Reserve # 10)

#### **G) PORNOGRAPHY**

Robert M. Campbell and Leslie A. Pal, The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics (2nd ed.). (Peterborough: Broadview, 1991). ('Pornographic Policy'). (Reserve # 11)

## II. INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE DIMENSIONS

### A) INTERNATIONAL LAW: BASIC PRINCIPLES

C.C. Joyner, "The Reality and Relevance of International Law," in C.W. Kegley jr. and E.R. Wittkopf (eds.), The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives (2nd ed.). (New York: Random House, 1988). pp. 186-197. (Reserve # 12)

Herbert M. Levine (ed.), World Politics Debated (2nd ed.). (New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1986), pp. 363-369. ("Should a Country Adhere to International Law Even If Its Vital Interests May be Adversely Affected?") (Reserve # 13)

### B) INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Stephen Satris (ed.), Taking Sides (3rd. ed.), (Guilford, Ct.: Dushkin, 1992), pp. 334-353. (Reserve #14)

Herbert M. Levine (ed.) World Politics Debated (2nd ed.). (New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1986), pp.303-314. ("Is Terrorism an Effective Political Instrument?") (Reserve # 15)

### C) THE EMERGENCE OF DEMOCRACY AS WORLD ORDER

D.A. Rustow, "Democracy: A Global Revolution?" Foreign Affairs Vol. 69 No. 4 (Fall, 1990), pp. 75-91. (Reserve # 16)

### D) HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORLD ORDER

Stanley Hoffmann, "Duties Beyond Borders," in Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (eds.), International Politics, (3rd ed.). (New York: Harper-Collins, 1992. pp. 495-504. (Reserve # 17)

Herbert M. Levine (ed.), World Politics Debated (2nd ed.). (New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1986), pp. 195-212. ("Should the Promotion of Human Rights be a Major Goal of Foreign Policy?") (Reserve # 18)

### E) ENVIRONMENTALISM

David Suzuki, "Playing Russian Roulette with World Environment," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies, (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 288-290. (Reserve Book)

Gro Harlem Brundtland, "Towards Common Action: Proposals for Institutional and Legal Change," in H.B. McCullough (ed.), Political Ideologies and Political Philosophies, (Toronto: Wall and Thompson, 1989), pp. 277-280. (Reserve Book)

Stephen Satris (ed.), Taking Sides (3rd. ed.), (Guilford, Ct.: Dushkin, 1992), pp. 91-109. (Reserve # 19)

Robert Paehlke, "Democracy and Environmentalism: Opening the Doors to the Administrative State," in R. Paehlke and D. Torgerson (eds.), Managing Leviathan: Environmental Politics and the Administrative State, (Peterborough: Broadview, 1990), pp. 35-51. (Reserve # 20)

### F) TOWARD WORLD GOVERNMENT

M.S. Soros, "The Tragedy of the Commons in Global Perspective" in C. W. Kegley jr. and E. R. Wittkopf (eds.), The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives (2nd ed.). (New York: Random House, 1988), pp.

339-344, (Reserve # 21)

Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy," In C. Kegley and E. Wittkopf, The Global Agenda (3rd ed.). (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1992) pp. 216-222. (Reserve # 22)

James S. Sutterlin, "The U.N. in a New World Order," In Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (eds.), International Politics. (3rd ed.). (New York: Harper-Collins, 1992, pp. 102- 112. (Reserve # 23)

H. Bull, The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), pp. 233-256. (Reserve # 24)