

Political Science 1020E Section 550
Huron University College
Introduction to Political Science
2018-2019 Course Outline

Antirequisites:

The former Politics 021F - 026G series

Lectures:

Mondays 3:30-5:30, Room W12, with Dr. Bradford & Dr. Scorgie-Porter

Seminars:

Seminar 552: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30, Room W108, with Dr. Bradford

Seminar 554: Fridays 12:30-1:30, Room W6, with Dr. Scorgie-Porter

Seminar 555: Mondays 12:30-1:30, Room W106, with Dr. Scorgie-Porter

Instructor: Dr. Neil Bradford

Office: A300

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Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30-12:30 & Thursdays 12:00-1:00

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Scorgie-Porter

Office: A15

E-mail address: lscorgi@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30 & Fridays 11:30-12:30

Course Description:

An introduction to the study of politics. The course focuses on ideas (including politics, power, democracy, justice, freedom), ideologies (including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism), institutions (including the nation-state, constitutions, legislatures, executives, the judiciary), political mobilization (participation, elections, parties, interest groups), and research skills, emphasizing Canadian, comparative, and international examples.

Learning Objectives:

Students will have definitional knowledge and understanding of political science, a rudimentary knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of political analysis, a preliminary knowledge and understanding of the principal fields of political analysis, a preliminary knowledge and appreciation of political science in the context of other disciplines, and an ability to search for, gather, review, and evaluate materials relevant to the core substantive learning objectives of Political Science 1020E.

Required Textbooks (available at Western bookstore):

Eric Mintz, David Close and Osvaldo Croci (2018). *Politics, Power and the Common Good*. Toronto: Pearson Canada. This is the 5th edition. Please do not use earlier editions.

Tepperman, Jonathan (2016). *The Fix: How Countries Use Crises to Solve the World's Worst Problems*. New York: Tim Duggan Books.

Structure:

Political Science 1020E is an introductory course in the field of politics. The course will cover a wide variety of topics, including Canadian politics, international politics, political theory, comparative politics, and public administration.

There are three seminar/tutorial groups to which students are assigned. Students are expected to attend seminars in their proper groups throughout the year. Do not arrive for a seminar in which you are not registered. The seminars generally follow themes in the lectures and will involve much participation on the part of students. Do not bring laptops or other electronic devices to seminars.

Lecture classes will begin promptly at 3:30, and so students must not be late. If you arrive more than five minutes late, the instructor will not permit you to be in the room until the break at approx. 4:20. Respecting the rights of the instructors and other students is paramount to successful lectures and seminars.

Each week, the second hour of the lecture period will feature a 'Critical Political Issues Workshop'. Students will be organized into small teams (8-10 students) and work collaboratively to address major challenges arising from the weekly readings and lecture presentations. Professors will identify key problems for the weekly workshop, providing brief context or background for the issues and offering direction for team discussions. The task for each workshop team is to produce strategies and solutions that respond creatively to the challenges facing governments and political communities. At the conclusion of each workshop, a different member from each team will present the major findings and recommendations to the class.

Topics:

Readings below are from the text. It may prove difficult at times to keep to the schedule below but every effort will be made to follow it. The course outline, essay instructions, essay questions, seminar participation hints, personal statements, lecture workshops, and selected notes/readings will be posted to OWL. It is your responsibility to check OWL on a weekly basis to obtain readings/materials for seminars and lectures. Most seminars will have readings you must download, read, and bring to seminar (again, these will be on OWL).

Assessment

1. Participation: Participation will be graded on the basis of regular attendance and active participation in the seminars (5 percent), and regular attendance in the lectures (5 percent). **(10 percent)**

2. Book Review: Students will write a book review on *The Fix: How Countries Use Crises to Solve the World's Worst Problems*. The book review is to be 1,500 words. More information about the specifics of this assignment will be given in early September. **(15 percent)**

3. December Examination: This two-hour examination will be scheduled in the December examination period. **(20 percent)**

4. Personal Statement: Each student will develop a short (2 – 3 minute) presentation on a topic of personal interest and/or conviction that is related to the course material. They will then have the opportunity to make a personal statement. Students will be graded on both the oral presentation and the text of their presentation, which will be handed in at the time of their presentation. The three broad foci that they might select are: elected politician, policy wonk, or public intellectual/popular philosopher or theorist. More information will be given later about the statements and will be available on OWL. **(5 percent)**

5. Second Term Research Essay: Students will have developed their topics for the essay in the first term, and submitted a preliminary thesis to the instructors by the last class in December. They will then conduct comprehensive research on their chosen topic throughout the second term. The essay is to be approximately 2,000-2,500 words. **(20 percent)**

6. Final Examination: This two-hour examination will be scheduled in the final examination period. **(30 percent)**

Due Dates:

- **Book Review:** November 5
- **December Examination:** During December exam period
- **Personal Statement Seminars:** Seminars in weeks beginning Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 25, & Mar. 5
- **Second Term Research Essay:** March 25
- **Final Examination:** During April exam period

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Late Penalties: It is the policy of the Department of Political Science to exact a penalty of 2 marks (i.e. 2 per cent of the grade on the assignment) per working day for late papers. Papers will not be accepted by instructors if they are more than two weeks late.

Documentation: Students must follow the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* Editorial Style Guidelines. **Internet Documentation:** All information obtained through the Internet must be cited in footnotes/endnotes and bibliographies. Internet citations must include all of the same information that is provided when citing a book or article. This includes the name of the author, name of the organisation that has posted the website, the title, the date the website was consulted, and the website address. For more details on proper electronic citation, consult the information desk at the Huron University College library.

Assignment Drop-off: Essays and other written assignments must be handed to the instructor directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

Class Attendance: You are strongly advised not to miss any class meetings. Important material, detailed instructions, information and insights on course themes, examinations, written work, course objectives and other essential matters will be presented in these hours.

Class and Seminar Schedule

**Dates show Monday lectures; every week will have a seminar unless otherwise indicated*

Introduction: Mapping the Field

September 10 Introduction – No reading (with Dr. Bradford & Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

***No seminar this week*

September 17 Politics and Political Science – Ch.1 (with Dr. Bradford)

September 24 Politics, Nation-States, and Globalization – Ch.2 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

October 1 Democracy in Question? – Ch.10 (with Dr. Bradford)

October 8 Reading Week – No classes or reading

October 15 Politics and Society – Ch.5 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

October 22 Politics and the Economy – On OWL: 1st Edition Mintz et al., “Government, the Economy, and Political Conflict” (with Dr. Bradford)

Political Ideas and their Consequences

October 29 The Politics of Indigeneity – Reading TBC (with Dr. Bradford & Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

November 5 The Classical Ideologies – Ch.3 (with Dr. Bradford)

November 12 Research & Writing Workshop with Mandy Penny, Coordinator Writing Services, & Colleen Burgess, Associate Librarian – No Reading

November 19 The Postmodern Challenge – Ch.4 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

Government Institutions

November 26 Federalism and Multi-Level Governance – Ch. 13 (with Dr. Bradford)

December 3 The Basic Law – Ch.12 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

January 7 Parliamentary Government – Ch.14 (with Dr. Bradford)

January 14 Presidential Government – Ch.15 (with Dr. Bradford)

Politics in Action

January 21 Putting Ideas to Work: Public Policy – Ch.16 (with Dr. Bradford)

January 28 Political Parties – Ch.6 (with Dr. Bradford)

February 4 Political Influence – Ch.8 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

February 11 Elections and Voting – Ch.7 (Guest Speaker TBC)

***No seminars this week*

February 18 Reading Week – No classes or reading

February 25 Taking it to the Streets – Ch.9 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

Global Perspectives on Politics

March 4 City Regions in a Global Age – Readings TBC (with Dr. Bradford)

March 11 Development or Dependency? – Ch.17 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

March 18 International Relations in Theory – Ch.18 (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

March 25 International Relations in Practice – Readings TBC (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

April 1 Conflict and Peacebuilding in the Global South – Readings TBC (with Dr. Scorgie-Porter)

April 8 Exam Review – No reading (with Dr. Bradford & Dr. Scorgie-Porter)



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.