Political Science 101, Section B4 – Introduction to Politics

Ian Urquhart
12-29 HM Tory
Tel. 780-492-5926
Email: Ian.Urquhart@ualberta.ca

Office Hours:
Mon/Wed 1300-1500 or by appt.

Course Description:
Political Science 101 is an introduction to major political concepts and the study of politics. It is an important course for first-year Political Science majors and minors or for students who are considering selecting Political Science as their major or minor. It is the prerequisite for most 200 level Political Science courses.

Degree requirements aside I believe understanding politics is vital to whatever career path or life journey you plan to follow. Engineers, teachers, nurses, and professional poker players all should have some knowledge about politics. Why? A quote from the American consumer-rights/political activist Ralph Nader offers a brilliant answer: “If you’re not turned on to politics, politics will turn on you.”

In this course I hope to encourage you to “turn on” to politics. I’ll try to do this by focusing on some key concepts in the discipline of political science: politics, power, democracy, the state, freedom, security, justice, and rights.

Course requirements:
The course requirements are outlined below. Policy regarding missed term work and course outlines may be found in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar (http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.4.html#23.4).

Written assignments and the final examination will be assigned a letter grade.

There are two written assignments for this course. The specific format and details of the first assignment will be shared with you by Monday January 11th. Essentially the paper will ask you to review Suzanne Collins’ The Mockingjay from the perspective of “political resources and power.” The assignment will ask you to orient your book review around two questions: What political resources do the characters in the book draw on to obtain and exercise power? Do you think the resources you are able to identify in Mockingjay are as important in real life as they are in this fantasy?

The second written assignment is a policy brief. A policy brief is a document that examines an issue and recommends how a decision-maker could or should address the issue. Several suggested issues will be provided for this assignment.

The final examination will be three hours long and will consist of one short answer section (where you will discuss 6 of 9 terms/phrases) and two essay sections. Each essay section will pose two questions; you will be asked to answer one essay question from each section.

A study guide for the final examination will be made available to students on Monday April 11th.
Grade Distribution:

- *Mockingjay* book review, 6-8 pp. (due – February 12th): 35%
- Policy brief, 2-4 pp (due – March 11th): 25%
- Final examination (Scheduled for Monday April 18th @ 0900): 40%

Grading:

All work for this class will be graded according to the University’s letter grade/4 point grade scale.

Penalties for late assignments:

Late written assignments will be subject to a 0.3 GPV penalty beginning on the Monday after the due date (for example, a paper submitted on Monday February 16, 2016 will receive a 0.3 GPV deduction). This penalty will be waived or adjusted in the case of illness or other extraordinary circumstances. Assignments not submitted by February 19, 2016 or by March 18, 2016 will receive a grade of zero (unless a valid excuse is offered).

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty:

The University of Alberta is committed to high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. An important excerpt from the Code of Student Behaviour is appended at the end of this syllabus. Additional information and resources are available through the Dean of Students “Student Conduct and Accountability” link at: [http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx).

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in the class please see me as soon as possible. Also, please discuss your situation and needs with the staff at Student Accessibility Services. They may be contacted at 1-80 Students’ Union Building, (780) 492-3381 (phone), or (780) 248-1665 (fax). Their email address for general inquiries is sasrec@ualberta.ca. Their website is [http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/en.aspx](http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/en.aspx).

Another Avenue of Student Support:

The Peer Support Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: (780) 492-HELP (780-492-4357)
- Drop in: 2-707 in the S.U.B.
Visit: http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/

Textbooks and Readings

All readings are required:
- Some of the readings below are available online either through the library or through third party sites.

Course Outline

January 4th: Course Introduction

Week of January 4th: Politics, Ethics, Authority, and the State

Weeks of January 11th and 18th: Power, Political Resources, and Liberal Democratic Politics
- Steven Lukes, Power: A Radical View (2nd edition), 1-7, 14-19.

Week of January 25th: Limits and Threats to Liberal Democratic Politics

Weeks of February 1st and 8th: The Second and Third Dimensions of Power
- Ian Urquhart, “Make Your Vote Count,” Alberta Views, (January/February 2015), 34-39. (This article will be uploaded to the ecclass site.)

Week of February 15th: Winter Term Reading Week
Week of February 22nd: Negative Freedom, Positive Freedom, and Religious Freedom  

Week of February 29th: The Harm Principle, Freedom of Speech, and Censorship  

Week of March 7th: Non-Traditional Lifestyles, Positive Freedom  


Week of March 21st: An Age of New Wars  
- Browning, 47-61.  

Week of March 28th: The Relevance of Human Development and Sustainable Development to International Security  
- Browning, 62-117.

Week of April 4th: “Catch-Up” and/or Review
30.3.2(1) **Plagiarism**

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) **Cheating**

30.3.2(2) a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2) b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6 (4).

30.3.2(2) c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2) d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2) e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) **Misrepresentation of Facts**

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. See also 30.3.2(2) b, c, d and e.

30.3.6(5) **Participation in an Offence**

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.
Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the Code are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the Code.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We are now also asking you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence. Your co-operation and assistance in this matter are much appreciated.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

30.3.2(2) Cheating (Continued)

30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

The Truth In Education (TIE) project is a campus wide educational campaign on Academic Honesty. This program was created to let people know the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behaviour. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students. Please take the time to visit the website at: http://www.ualberta.ca/tie
EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
FOR REVIEW WITH EACH CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY TERM

Procedures for Instructors Regarding
Plagiarism, Cheating,

Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence

The following procedures are drawn from the Code of Student Behaviour as approved by GFC and the Board of Governors. The guidelines summarize what instructors must do when they have reason to believe that a student has plagiarized, cheated, misrepresented facts or participated in an offence. If you have questions about these guidelines, or about the policies, please talk with the senior administrator in your Faculty responsible for dealing with student discipline—usually an Associate Dean—or the Appeals and Compliance Officer (Appeals Coordinator), University Governance (2-2655).

30.5.4 Procedures for Instructors in Cases Respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour

30.5.4(1) When an Instructor believes that a Student may have committed an Inappropriate Academic Behaviour Offence [30.3.2] or that there has been Misrepresentation of Facts [30.3.6(4)] or Participation in an Offence [30.3.6(5)] in cases respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour in the course that he or she instructs, the Instructor will meet with the Student. Before such a meeting, the Instructor shall inform the Student of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the Student refuses or fails to meet with the Instructor within a reasonable period of time specified by the Instructor, the Instructor shall, taking into account the available information, decide whether a report to the Dean is warranted.

30.5.4(2) If the Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code, the Instructor shall, as soon as possible after the event occurred, report that violation to the Dean and provide a written statement of the details of the case. The instructor may also include a recommendation for sanction.

Possible Sanctions

One or more of the following sanctions given in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts:

30.4.3(2) a.i a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour
30.4.3(2) a.ii Reduction of a grade in a course
30.4.3(2) a.iii a grade of F for a course
30.4.3(2) a.iv a remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating Inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii
30.4.3(3) b Expulsion
30.4.3(3) c Suspension

The following sanctions may be used in rare cases:

30.4.3(3) e Suspension of a Degree already awarded
30.4.3(3) f Rescission of a Degree already awarded

30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal

30.6.1(1) When a Student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2)e, which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.

PROFESSOR STEVEN PENNEY
CHAIR, CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

DR CARL AMRHEIN
PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behaviour and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 26/08/2014

R:\GO05 General Faculties Council - Committees\CAM\12-13\Don't Cheatsheet\Updated.docx