UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POL S 101(A2): Introduction to Politics
FALL 2016

Lecture days: MWF
Time: 11:00-11:50AM
Lecture Room: Tcry 1-93

Instructor: Dr. Isaac Odoom
Office: HM Tory 11-15
Office hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm or by appointment
Email: iodoom@ualberta.ca

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Email: aalzubai@ualberta.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is an introduction to the study of politics. It invites students to explore the discipline of political science—its concepts, methods, approaches, themes and ongoing debates. Thematically, topics to be covered include political power, political authority, sovereignty, and the state. Other topics include party systems, political ideology, elections and political participation, democracy, authoritarianism among others. As well, students will be introduced to international politics, international political economy and international (in)security.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand and explain some basic concepts in political science covered in the course.
- Distinguish between the different forms of government and political systems.
- Appreciate the role of politics in our day-to-day life and to understand contemporary political activities in the state and in the global arena.
- Improve on their critical thinking, writing and research skills. Students are encouraged to be curious in a way that leads to thoughtful, critical, and self-reflective considerations about politics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:
The following is the required textbook for this course and can be purchased at the bookstore or online:

MacLean, G. A. & Wood, D.R. (2014) Politics: An Introduction. 2nd Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. This text is referred to as 'MacLean & Wood' in the course schedule below. Here is a link to textbook resources for students:
http://www.oupcanada.com/higher_education/companion/politics/9780195448948/student_resou rces.html
COURSE PREREQUISITES: None
Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

COURSE FORMAT:
Classes will be organized as ‘interactive’ lectures on Mondays and Wednesday, and discussion seminars on selected Fridays.

LECTURES:
Lectures are generally designed to supplement, explain, contextualize and/or provoke critical evaluation of assigned readings. The lectures do not replace the readings but expand on what is offered in the text. It is the responsibility of the student to complete all required readings and come to the class prepared and ready for participation by contributing in discussions of assigned readings and debate other students on issues under study whenever necessary.

SEMINARS:
Seminars are scheduled for some selected Fridays. These seminars are meant to help students think through concepts discussed in lecture by focusing on a concrete example—often a current event or unfolding situation. Seminar activities may include group exercises, debates and simulations. One or two articles/readings will often be assigned to help students become informed about the issue which will be the seminar topic. These will typically be newspaper articles that do not require too much reading time. They will be posted at least one week before the seminar meets. For the first few weeks, seminars will meet as regular lectures—at the same time and in the same location as the Monday and Wednesday lectures.

SEMINAR GROUPS:
The seminar groups will be posted on eclass. Seminars will change from meeting in lecture to meeting in seminar groups on selected Fridays from late September. Here, students will meet with the TAs and their classmates for small group exercises and discussions.

RESOURCES:
It is recommended that students keep abreast with current political issues by reading major newspapers (The Globe and Mail, the National Post, Edmonton Journal, Metro Edmonton etc.) and/or watching news bulletins from television stations such as CBC, CTV, CNN and the BBC News. If you do not regularly read newspapers or news broadcasts, download some apps!

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:
Course requirements are outlined below. Students should note that in all but exceptional situations, all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar. Tests and assignments will be assigned a letter grade in accordance with the University’s four-point scale. The instructor will not ‘curve’ or adjust final grades according to any preset formula. Evaluation of the following course requirements will determine students’ grades:
GRADE DISTRIBUTION, ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment/Exam</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday, October 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Friday, November 4 @4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Seminar Attendance and Participation (15%):
The Friday seminars are mandatory and participation is essential to the success of the course. Students will be marked on a weekly basis in seminar for:

- attending the seminar
- being respectful to their fellow classmates and the TA
- staying on topic in the discussion
- demonstrating through their contributions that they have prepared by doing the readings and engaging in critical discussion relating to key themes and questions.

Mid-Term Exam (30%):
Students will write an in-class mid-term test on October 14. The test will be based on lectures and readings from the first half of the term. Details will be announced in class.

Research/Position Paper (25%):
Students are required to write and submit a term paper not exceeding 5 double-spaced typed pages, excluding endnotes or bibliography – typed in a 12-point Times New Roman font and stapled on suggested topics (TBA) or any topic of student’s choice on any of the topics/themes covered in the term selected in consultation with the instructor.

- The Research/Position paper must state a clear main argument (thesis statement) in the introductory paragraph. In the body of the paper, student must support thesis, cite and briefly discuss contrary views, and develop own argument or position on the topic/issue. End the paper with a summary of the main arguments and conclusion.
- Student must use at least three (3) scholarly/academic sources together with other sources.
- Use the APA style for referencing and choose in-text bracketing, endnotes, or footnotes. This style guide will be posted on eclass and is also available online through the library network.
- Include a bibliography listing all sources used in the paper. Do not pad the bibliography with items you did not actually use.

Research paper shall be submitted to the instructor in class or to the Political Science Department General office (Tory Room 10-16) by the deadline: Friday, November 4 @4pm Additional research paper requirements will be discussed during essay workshop in October.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will comprise of materials covered in lectures as well as from the assigned readings. The instructor will hold an exam review session in the last lecture before the exam to review relevant materials.
GRADING SCHEME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0 (90-100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0 (85-89%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7 (80-84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3 (77-79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0 (73-76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7 (70-72%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3 (67-69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0 (63-66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7 (60-62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3 (55-59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0 (50-54%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 (0-49%)</td>
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GRADE APPEALS:
The appeals process can be found on the Department of Political Science website under “Political Science Grade Appeal Policies and Procedures”. Note that appeals related to work that are handed back prior to the final exam must be initiated before the schedule time for the final exam.

LATE PENALTIES, PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC HONESTY:
Late assignments: It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reasons for being late does not also explain this lack of communication, and if, in the judgement of the instructor, there is no valid reason for a late assignment (e.g. health or domestic affliction) then you should be prepared to be penalized by one grade per day on the letter scale. For example, a B would become a B- on the first day, a C+ on the second day, and so on. Term papers more than two weeks late may not be accepted.

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest 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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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.
Further information on cheating and plagiarism:

- Office of Student Judicial Affairs website: www.osja.ualberta.ca (comprehensive information regarding academic integrity for students, instructors and TA’s)

- “Don’t Do It” sheet provided by the Faculty of Arts

- “Don’t Cheat” sheet provided by University Governance

Audio or Video Recording: Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT & DISABILITY SERVICES: Students with disabilities or special needs that might interfere with their performance should contact the professor at the beginning of the course with the appropriate documentation. Every effort will be made to accommodate such students, but in all cases prior arrangements must be made to ensure that any special needs can be met in a timely fashion and in such a way that the rest of the class is not put at an unfair disadvantage. Students requiring special support or services should be registered with the office of Specialized Support & Disability Services (SSDS): http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/SSDS/ This is particularly important for students requiring special exam arrangements. Once you have registered with SSDS, it is your responsibility to provide the instructor with a "Letter of Introduction" and, if necessary, an "Exam Instruction & Authorization" form.

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?): The Student’s Union Peer Support Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

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

POLICY ON OFFICE HOURS AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION
When contacting the instructor by email, please put the course number in the subject line along with some indication on what you would like to discuss. Please also remember to include your name in the sign off since not all email addresses give easy identifying information.

Instructor aims to respond to emails within one business day, but responses may be more sporadic on the weekends and over holidays. If the topic of your query requires a fairly involved answer which will likely elicit more questions, you may be asked to come in person.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM: Cell phones, pagers, iPods, PDAs, etc., are to be turned off or put on silence during lectures, discussions, and exams (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor). Always exercise courtesy in how you use technology in the classroom.

OUTLINE OF READINGS AND COURSE SCHEDULE:
*This schedule is subject to changes by the instructor in the course of the term.

Part 1: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS/POLITICAL CONCEPTS

Week 1: .................................................................
(Sept. 2): Course Organization/Introduction
What is Politics? Why study Politics?

- Recommended Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 1

Week 2: .................................................................
(Sept 7, 9): Concepts: Power, Authority, Legitimacy, and Sovereignty

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 2

Part 2: POLITICAL THEORY/PHILOSOPHY

Week 3: .................................................................
(Sept 12, 14, 16): Freedom, Justice, Ideologies

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 3

Part 3: GOVERNMENT AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Week 4: .................................................................
(Sept 19, 21, 23): Role of Government, and the State

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 4

**Sept 23: First Seminar Discussion (Readings TBA)

Week 5: .................................................................
(Sept 26, 28, 30): Branches of Government

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 5
Week 6: .................................................................
(Oct 3, 5, 7): Political Systems

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 6

**Oct 7: Essay Workshop

Week 7:.................................................................
(Oct 10, 12, 14) – Oct 10 Thanksgiving Holiday (No class). Instructor away for a conference!

** Oct 14: MID-TERM EXAM

Week 8:.................................................................
(Oct 17, 19, 21): Elections and Political participation

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 7

**October 21: Seminar Discussion (Readings TBC)

Week 9:.................................................................
(Oct 24, 26, 28): Policy making and Interest groups

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 8

**October 28: Seminar Discussion (Readings TBC)

Part 4: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Week 10:.................................................................
(Oct 31, Nov 2, Nov 4): Introduction to International Politics

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 11

**Nov. 4: RESEARCH PAPER DUE @4pm

Week 11:.................................................................
(Nov 7, 9, 11):

READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)
Week 12: \(\text{Nov 14, 16, 18}\): International (in)security

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 12

Week 13: \(\text{Nov 21, 23, 25}\): International (in)security II

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 12

**November 25: Seminar Discussion (Readings TBA)**

Week 14: \(\text{Nov 28, 30, Dec 2}\): International Political Economy

- Required Reading: MacLean & Wood, Chapter 13

Week 15: \(\text{Dec 6, 7}\): Conclusion of Course/Exam 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.

The Truth In Education (T*I*E) 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 behavior. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students.

Please take the time to visit the website at: http://www.ualberta.ca/tie
AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENSE

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OR FAKES

http://www.government.webb.edu/
**FOR REVIEW WITHIN EACH CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY TERM**

**EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

**Violation of Policies and Procedures**

- **30.4.5 Process for Instructors in Cases Requiring Impartial Academic Behavior**
  - According to the Code, instructors are responsible for maintaining an environment of respect and fairness. If an instructor feels that a student is violating the Code, they must report the incident to the appropriate authorities.
  - The following procedures are to be followed:
    1. **Warning Notice**: A written notice is issued to the student, detailing the violation and providing the student with an opportunity to explain the situation.
    2. **Suspension**: If the violation persists, the student may be suspended from the course.
    3. **Expulsion**: In cases of severe or repeated violations, the student may be expelled from the institution.

**Possible Sanctions**

- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Other disciplinary actions as determined by the governing body.

**Instructor's Guide to Handling Violations**

- **Sanction**: The sanctions outlined in the Code are intended to ensure that instructors can handle violations in a fair and consistent manner.
- **Instructor's Role**: Instructors are encouraged to handle violations in a timely and professional manner, ensuring that the Code is applied consistently across all classes.

**Procedures for Instructors Reporting Behavior**

- **Prompt Reporting**: Instructors are encouraged to report any violations of the Code immediately to the appropriate authority.
- **Confidentiality**: The confidentiality of the reporting process is maintained to protect the privacy of both the instructor and the student.

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**The Campus Law Review Committee**

- **Chair**: Professor Steven Penny
- **Student Representative**: Professor Steven Penny (Academic)