Introduction to Political Science
POL S 101 – A4
MWF 1:00-1:50pm
SAB 326

Instructor
Dr. Nicole Marshall
nicole2@ualberta.ca
Office: 11-7 HM Tory Bldg
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11am-12pm

TAs
Elise Sammons / esammons@ualberta.ca
Students: Last Name Beginning with A-G

Hilary Allum / hallum@ualberta.ca
Students: Last Name Beginning with H-M

David Semaan / semaan@ualberta.ca
Students: Last Name Beginning with N-Z

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce students to the major approaches and topics in the field of Political Science. The issues discussed in this course are meant to provide students with an historical and theoretical understanding of the key areas of the study of political science: political theory, Canadian politics, global politics, and comparative politics. A focus will be placed on the various understandings of citizenship and the state as they span the four core areas of the discipline.

To be successful, students are expected to develop an understanding of the central topics that make up the field, as well as be able to critically engage with the concepts and ideas presented throughout this course. In this, students will develop a deeper, more critical, understanding of the concepts and debates that make up the core of Political Science, ensuring their preparedness for second year courses in the field. Emphasis will be given to written assignments to encourage the development of the student’s comprehension and critical expression skills.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:
• Construct and defend a clear argument in writing
• Discuss the central concepts of political science comfortably
• Apply theory to everyday life, and critically analyse what’s going on around you

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE TEXT

The following textbook is required for this course. You can purchase it from the University of Alberta Bookstore:

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The 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. The instructor will not ‘curve’ or adjust final grades according to any pre-set formula. Evaluation of the following course requirements will determine students’ grades:

**Assignments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Digests</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>Oct 2, Nov 1, Dec 1 (3x10%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Workshop</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Nov 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Nov 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Tentative Date: Dec 19. Check Beartracks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Digests (30%):** Each week, students are required to write a 350-500 word digest that applies the key theoretical concepts discussed in class to an event in the news (any timely news is fine, domestic or global). These will be turned in as a package for grading and commentary three times over the course of the term, on:

- October 2
- November 1
- December 1

Successful digests will identify and briefly explain the theory, and clearly illustrate how it applies to theory selected story. Excellent digests will also clearly explain what we can learn, specifically, from having applied this theory to the story (as opposed to other theoretical frames).

**Writing Workshop (5%):** Students will participate in a peer review writing workshop on November 10. Details are posted on eclass. It is only possible to assign grades to those students in physical attendance during the workshop, given its nature. Please plan to be in attendance.

**Research Essay (30%):** Students will select a topic from the list posted on eclass, and write a research essay of 2000-2250 words. Essays will be due November 24 in class. Essays will be assessed using the detailed grading rubric available on eclass. It is strongly recommended you use this as a reference document in writing your essay. Essays must make use of at least 5 scholarly sources (NB: Wikipedia, dictionaries, and encyclopaedias are NOT acceptable sources and grade deductions will be made if you use them).

**Final Exam (35%):** A final exam will be scheduled by the university during the regular exam period, lasting 3 hours. It will be cumulative, and comprised of definitions and short answer questions. Details of the format and expectations will be thoroughly explained during the exam review on December 8.

**NB:** Assignments will be graded and returned as quickly as possible. We generally aim for 2 weeks; however, this may extend up to 3 weeks due to course enrolment.
Course Policies:

Assigned Readings
It is expected that you come to class having completed the assigned readings. The instructor will design lectures to build on and expand from the concepts explained in the textbook. If you have questions about the readings, please do not hesitate to ask at the beginning of class. Time will be assigned each class for this purpose.

Email
ALL email questions should be directed to your assigned TA (for TA assignments, please see the list on eclass or the beginning of this syllabus). Please check the syllabus thoroughly before asking questions about the course or assignments, as almost all information will be made available to you here.

Appointments
All appointments regarding written assignments must be completed at least three business days before the assignment is due. This ensures students have the time necessary to implement the suggestions and help they receive during the meeting. Appointments should be scheduled with your assigned TA, as s/he will be grading your assignment.

Cell Phones
Please turn off or mute your cell phone during class. If you have an emergency where this is not possible, please let me know at the beginning of class.

Late assignments
As part of an attempt to reduce stress, one week’s grace will be given on all written assignments for students who have difficulties meeting the deadline; however, all ‘grace assignments’ will receive no written commentary to accompany their grade. Any assignments turned in after the grace period will receive no written commentary, and will receive a deduction of 5% per day (including weekends) for a maximum of 7 days, at which time a grade of “0” will be assigned.

Academic Integrity
“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 http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodeofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/Code ofStudentBehaviour.aspx ) and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offense. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and working environment
The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:
• Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
• If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.
For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Student Ombuds Office: (http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110.

**Academic Honesty**

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

**Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 content author(s).

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, Here, coordinators or instructors of single-section courses should phrase a description of how “attendance” and “participation” are assigned a portion of this grade component.

**Student Accessibility Services**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssdss.ualberta.ca).

**FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?)**

The Student Distress Centre listens, offers support, supplies information and provides services:
Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
Drop in: 030-N in the S.U.B.
Visit: www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc
Chat: www.campuscrisischat.com/

Learning and Writing Support
Students looking to improve their essay writing or study habits are encouraged to visit the Student Success Centre at 2-300 Students Union Building. The SSC exists to help students maximize their educational experience. The writing resources staff provide workshops and one-on-one sessions with students, for a small fee. Visit the website at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/academicsupport/writingstaff.cfm

Date of deferred Final Examination (if applicable):
Contact Professor

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING
All students should consult the "Truth-In-Education" handbook or website (http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs, consult http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE. Also discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with the instructor.

EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
(UPDATED EFFECTIVE APRIL, 2008)
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](http://www.ualberta.ca/tie)

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**Grading:**

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below ("Department Name Department Undergraduate (or Graduate) Grading Scale"). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

- 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Grade Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ 90%-100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent: Strong evidence of original thinking; clear capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base; superb writing and organizational skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A 85%-89%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Good to very good: Evidence of strong grasp of subject matter; indication of critical capacity and analytic ability; understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature; strong writing and organizational skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- 80%-84%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ 77%-79%</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Good to very good: Evidence of strong grasp of subject matter; indication of critical capacity and analytic ability; understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature; strong writing and organizational skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 74%-76%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Minimally satisfactory: Illustrates partial understanding of the subject matter; demonstrates an ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; writing and organization skills need improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B- 70%-73%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Minimally satisfactory: Illustrates partial understanding of the subject matter; demonstrates an ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; writing and organization skills need improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+ 67%-69%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory: Limited familiarity with the subject matter; insufficiently developed critical and analytic skills; writing and organizational skills are weak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 64%-66%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C- 60%-63%</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+ 57%-59%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Marginal: Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature; poor writing and organization skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 54%-56%</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D- 50%-53%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F &lt;50%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Inadequate: Minimum expectations: Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature; poor writing and organization skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Schedule**

September 6: Course Introduction

September 8: Course Introduction – What is Political Science?

September 11: Understanding Politics: Authority and Legitimacy

*Readings: Chapter 1, pp. 1-10*

September 13: Understanding Politics: The Tragedy of the Commons

*Readings: Chapter 1, pp. 11-20*

September 15: Discussion
September 18: The Nation State  
*Readings: Chapter 2, pp. 22-36*

September 20: Citizenship and Globalization  
*Readings: Chapter 2, pp. 37-48*

September 22: Discussion

September 25: Ideals and Ideologies: Liberalism and Conservativism  
*Readings: Chapter 3, pp. 49-61*

September 27: Ideals and Ideologies: Socialism and Fascism  
*Readings: Chapter 3, pp. 62-74*

September 29: Discussion

October 2: Ideals and Ideologies: Feminism and Environmentalism  
*Readings: Chapter 4, pp. 75-89*

October 4: Ideals and Ideologies: Anarchism and Fundamentalism  
*Readings: Chapter 4, pp. 90-96*

October 6: Discussion

October 9: Thanksgiving Day (University Buildings Closed)

October 11: Political Culture  
*Readings: Chapter 5, pp. 97-107*

October 13: Political Participation  
*Readings: Chapter 5, pp. 108-119*

October 16: Elections  
*Readings: Chapter 7, pp. 147-158*

October 18: Campaigns and Voting Behaviour  
*Readings: Chapter 7, pp. 158-175*

October 20: Discussion

October 23: Political Conflict  
*Readings: Chapter 9, pp. 205-216*

October 25: Political Violence  
*Readings: Chapter 9, pp. 217-228*

October 27: Discussion

October 30: Democratic Government
Readings: Chapter 10, pp. 229-252

November 1: Non-Democratic Government
Readings: Chapter 11, pp. 253-275

November 3: Discussion

November 6: The Constitution, Courts and Laws
Readings: Chapter 12, pp. 276-299

November 8: Guest Lecture: Mr. Michael Sestito, LLB

November 10: Essay Writing Workshop (TAs)

November 13: Remembrance Day Holiday (University Buildings Closed)

November 14-17: Fall Reading Week

November 20: Parliamentary Systems
Readings: Chapter 14, pp. 327-350

November 22: Presidential and Semi-Presidential Systems
Readings: Chapter 15, pp. 351-370

November 24: Discussion

November 27: Global Poverty and Development
Readings: Chapter 17, pp. 395-419

November 29: Global Governance: Realism
Readings: Chapter 18, pp. 420-434

December 1: Discussion

December 4: Global Governance: Liberal Internationalism, Radicalism, and Conservativism
Readings: Chapter 18, pp. 434-447

December 6: Course Conclusion

December 8: Exam Review
**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.

More information can be found at: [http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx)
# Excerpts from the Code of Student Behaviour

## 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)c.ii, 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.

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**Professor Steven Penney**  
Chair, Campus Law Review Committee

**Dr. Steven Dew**  
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: 27/08/2015*