

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Define political science, and identify various areas of specialization and the general scope and methods of the discipline at an introductory level.
2. Define a basic set of core concepts in the study of politics among them, for example, government, power, state, society, theory, ideology.
3. Explain the basic elements of contemporary ideologies among the, for example, liberalism, conservatism, socialism.
4. Describe major institutions and actors in the political system among the, for example, the executive, the judiciary, the legislature the bureaucracy, political parties.
5. Describe major processes in the political systems, among them, for example, elections, interest articulation, interest aggregation, interest communication.
6. Apply his/her understanding of course objectives in a formal research essay which may involve, for example, analysis of contemporary regimes, political structures and processes, and contemporary issues at the national or international levels.
7. Be prepared for further study in more advanced work in Canadian Government, Ideology, International Relations, Comparative Politics, American Government, and more.

N: Course Content:

1. Introduction - Basic concepts, and approaches to the study of Political Science will be discussed in a liberal democratic context. Major concepts such as politics, government power, influence, coercion, state, nation, authority, civil society, and others will be discussed. The basic methods of Political Science will be outlined.
2. Ideas and Politics - Basic concepts of political philosophy/theory will be examined. Contributions of authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Marx and Mill will be briefly discussed. The development of mass political ideas, and ideology will be discussed with reference to classical, reform, welfare state liberalism, conservatism, utopian socialism, democratic socialism, scientific socialism, environmentalism, feminism, and others.
3. The State and System - The basic role and functions of state structures will be examined, among them, the assembly, the executive, and the judiciary. Two major types of state system, parliamentary and presidential, will be discussed, and the phenomenon of federalism examined.
4. The Political Process - The basic concepts of political culture and political cleavage will be examined. The role and development of electoral systems, and political parties will be discussed. The role of pressure groups in a democratic society will be reviewed.
5. Governing and Policy Making - the role and function of the civil service will be examined in terms of policy formulation and implementation. The role of the judiciary will be reviewed in terms adjudication.

O: Methods of Instruction:

Presentation of the course will involve the use of formal lectures, structured group work by students, and in-class discussion of assigned material. Additional readings may be assigned for each unit of the course, and placed on reserve in the library. Where appropriate, audio-visual materials will be used.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:

A text and readings will be chosen based on individual instructor’s preferences in consultation and with the approval of the department.

SAMPLE TEXT:

Larry Johnston, Politics, An Introduction to the Modern Democratic State, 2nd ed.
(Broadview Press, Peterborough), 2001.

Q: Means of Assessment:

The course evaluation will be based on the course objectives and in accordance with Douglas College Policy and the policies of the Political Science Department. A minimum of 50% of the student’s grades will be assigned to the mid-term and end of term examinations. Minimum of 30% of the student’s grades will be assigned to a formal research essay. A maximum of 20% of student’s grade will be based upon a series of components, for example, quizzes, short essay, attendance, participation, class presentations. The specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of semester.

One example of an evaluation scheme:

Two in class quizzes, 10% each	20%
Mid-term test	25%
Formal essay	30%
Final Test	<u>25%</u>
Total:	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer(s): J.T. Farrell

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director

Registrar