

Political Science 1020E Introduction to Political Science
Brescia University College, UWO
2011-2012

'In the state of nature ... the life of man [is] solitary, poore, nasty, brutish, and short'

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

Instructor: Dr. Paul Barker

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Class: Tues. 11:30-1:30 + Thurs. 11:30-12:30 Room MRW 153

Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-11:30 + Thurs. 12:30-1:30

Course Description

This is an introduction to the discipline of political science. The first term examines the fundamentals in the study of political life, which include the purpose of government, the nature of power, and the importance of the rule of law. The second term considers how people think about politics as well as the basic forms of governments in the world today. It also looks at the core elements of the political process – leaders, legislatures, courts, political parties, interest groups, and the media.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Justify the significance of government and politics for the functioning of human societies.
- Apply the fundamental concepts in the study of politics and government to political events.
- Define and critique both the prominent political ideologies and the basic forms of government.
- Analyze the way components of the political process interact with each other to produce government policies and programs.
- Develop a political strategy that allows interested political actors to achieve their objectives in the form of new laws and policies.

Course Materials

Mark Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan + Brenda O'Neill, *An Introduction to Government & Politics: A Conceptual Approach*, 8th ed. Toronto: Nelson, 2010

Mark Charlton + Paul Barker, eds., *Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues*, 6th ed. Toronto: Nelson, 2009

Readings available on WebCT

Grading

Report on Reading# (Oct. 4 th)	10%
Group Projects* (Nov 8, 10; Mar. 20, 22)	10%
Term Test (Nov. 29)	20%
Essay (Jan. 31)+	20%
Participation@	10%
Final Exam (final exam period)	30%

1000 word essay on Machiavelli

* 750-1000 word group paper for each project

+ 1500 word essay on topics supplied by instructor

@ participation based on attendance, presentation, and contribution to class

Weekly Outline

Week 1A

Sept. 8: Introduction + Overview

Week 1

Sept. 13 & 15: Society, Government & Politics ... + Ontario election

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction to Government & Politics*, ch. 1

Reading 1: Amy Dempsey, "Zero-alcohol limit for drivers 21 and under," *Toronto Star* July 26, 2010 + Robert Benzie, "Alcohol ban for young drivers faces Charter challenge," *Toronto Star*, August 3, 2010

Issue: Is the Ontario government right to ban drinking for drivers 21 and under?

Week 2

Sept. 20: Hobbes + Government

Reading 2: Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Theory* rev ed. (London: OUP, 2006), ch. 1

Tournament: Prisoner's Dilemma and Bonus Marks

Sept. 22: Writing + Essays

Reading 3: Lucille Charlton, "How to Write an Argumentative Essay" in M. Charlton + P. Barker eds., *Crosscurrents* (Toronto: Nelson, 2002) + Reading 4: Anthony Weston, "Appendix 1: Some Common Fallacies" in *A Rulebook for Arguments* 4th ed.

Week 3

Sept. 27: Power + Authority

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, 16-21

Presentation: Is Machiavelli right about power? Reading 5: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (New York: Penguin, 2003), 50-58

Sept. 29: Authority

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, 21-28

Week 4

Oct. 4 + 6: Ontario election ... folly of predictions

Class handouts

Week 5

Oct. 11 + 13: Sovereignty, State & Nation

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 3 & 4

Week 6

Oct. 18 + 20: Sovereignty, State & Nation (cont'd)

Presentation: Should aboriginal peoples have their own separate government? Read Mark Charlton & Paul Barker, eds., *Crosscurrents* (Toronto: Nelson, 2009), Issue 2.

Presentation: Is Quebec a nation within a united country? Read Charlton + Barker, *Crosscurrents*, Issue 6 (Chong article only)

Week 7

Oct. 25 + 27: Political Culture

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 5

Presentation: Is Canada being Americanized? Read Charlton + Barker, *Crosscurrents* Issue 1

Week 8

Nov. 1 + 3: Law & Constitutionalism

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 6-7

Week 9

Nov. 8 + 10: Group Project:

Reading 6: US Supreme Court decision in *Morse v. Frederick*: Roberts opinion (1-15) and Stevens opinion (1-16) available at supremecourtus.gov/opinions/06pdf/06-278.pdf

Weeks 10 + 11

Nov. 15, 17, 22 + 24: International Order

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 8

Issue: Can we resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? (handout)

Week 12

Nov. 29: TEST

Dec. 1: Ideology

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, pp. 111-17

Week 13

Dec. 6: Ideological Spectrum

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, pp. 117-25

Week 14

Jan. 10: Liberalism

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 10

Presentation: Can government require mandatory counseling for couples seeking a divorce?
 Reading 7: Mark Brownless, "Counselling before breakup: New Ontario divorce rules start Monday," *Toronto Star*, July 21, 2011 + C. Kell, "Ontario to force couples seeking divorce to attend mediation"

Jan. 12: Liberalism + Mill

Reading 8: J.S. Mill, "On Liberty" in D. Bromwich et al., *On Liberty* (New Haven: YUP, 2003), 80-85

Week 15**Jan. 17 + 19: Conservatism & Socialism**

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 11 & 12

Week 16**Jan. 24 + 26: Feminism**

Read Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 14

Presentation: Has feminism won? Reading 9: Hanna Rosin, "The End of Men," *Atlantic* (July/August 2010)

Week 17**Jan. 31 + Feb. 2: Environmentalism & Nationalism ... tragedy of commons game**

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 13 & 15

Week 18**Feb. 7 + 9: Forms of Government & Democracy**

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 16-17

Presentation: Does the Charter conflict with democracy? Charlton + Barker, *Crosscurrents*, Issue 4

Week 19**Feb. 14 + 16: Transitional Democracies**

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 18

Reading 10: James Q. Wilson, "Democracy for all?" *AEI Online*, March 1, 2000

Week 20

Feb 28 + Mar. 1: Autocracy

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 19

Reading 11: Michael Petrou, "End of Democracy?" *Maclean's* March 9, 2009

Week 21

Mar. 6 + 8: The Political Process & Representative Assembly

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 22 & 26

Week 22

Mar. 13 + 15: Executive & Administration

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, chs. 27 & 28

Week 23

Mar. 20 + 22: Group Project

Charlton + Barker, *Crosscurrents*, Issue 7

Week 24

Mar. 27 + 29: Courts

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 19

Week 25

Elections

Apr. 3: Elections

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 25

Presentation: Should voting be mandatory? Reading 12: Coyne v. Orwin in Charlton + Barker, *Crosscurrents* 4th ed.

Apr. 5: Groups + Parties

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 23

Week 26**Apr. 10: The Media + Review**

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction*, ch. 24

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a

test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.