POLSC 101A: Introduction to Government and Politics
3 Credits, 3 hours

This is an introductory course in Political Science. Students are encouraged to think critically about how their lives and the world are shaped by power, ideas, interests, rules and laws. It is intended to provide students with general political awareness and insight, thus making them more informed about the world in which they live. The student will also develop an understanding of key political processes and institutions.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Wednesdays   1:00pm-3:00pm
Thursdays   11:00am-12:00pm
Fridays   1:00pm-3:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Mondays   6:30pm-9:30pm   POLSC 101E Team

Required Resources

There are no required texts for this course. Instead there are some recommended texts that can be found in the library. These texts include:

Mark O. Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan, and Brenda O'Neill, (2014) *An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach, Ninth Edition*, (Scarborough, ON: Nelson).

George A. MacLean, Duncan R. Wood and Lori Turnbull, *Politics: An Introductiuon, Third Edition*, (Oxford University Press)

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between the main political ideologies within the field of political science.

- Examine key political topics and concepts, such as authority, nation, state and the rule of law, important to the field of political science.

- Demonstrate knowledge of key political concepts, ideologies and institutions through exams, assignments and in-class discussion.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of three assignments. These assignments include: a term exam, on-line discussions, and a final exam. Below is a brief description of each assignment. More detailed descriptions of each assignment will occur as we approach these assignments throughout the term.

On-line Discussions	TBA	35%
First Exam	22 February	30%
Final Exam	TBA	35%
Total		100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

First Exam

The first exam will cover material considered up to a week before the exam is scheduled. The exam will include multiple choice questions, true or false questions and short-answer questions. A review of the material will also occur before the exam, and students will be given a specific outline of the exam, including mark distribution, a week before the exam occurs. The value of this assignment is 30% of the total grade.

On-Line Discussions

At seven points throughout the term I will post discussion topics for students to comment on. The total value of the assignment is 35%, and therefore 5% for every post. Your response does not have to be lengthy – between 200-500 words - but must exhibit understanding, clarity, accuracy, relevance and good reflections. Each topic will be available for only week and late submissions will not be accepted.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover material considered after the first exam. The exam will include multiple choice, true or false, and written answer questions. More details will offered concerning this exam as it approaches. The value of this assignment is 35% of the total grade.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
Excellent	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
Good	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
Satisfactory	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
Progression	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
Minimum Pass	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

1. Introduction: Why Study Politics?
2. Approaches Used in the Study of Politics
    2.1 Descriptive and Normative
    2.2 Areas of Specialization
3. Government, Politics and Public Goods
4. Division and Connection in a Changing World
5. Political Power
    5.1 Influence
    5.2 Coercion
    5.3 Authority
6. Three Types of Authority
7. Sovereignty and State
    7.1 Sovereignty
    7.2 Powers of Sovereignty
    7.3 The State
8. Citizens and Citizenship
9. Nations
    9.1 Defining Nations
    9.2 Nations and States
10. The Law
    10.1 Customary and Positive Law
    10.2 Common and Civil Law
    10.3 Rights and Duties
    10.4 Constitutionalism
    10.5 Three Constitutions
    10.6 Amending the Canadian Constitution
11. International Relations
    11.1 Mechanisms of Cooperation
    11.2 Hinderances to Cooperation
12. Political Philosophy
    12.1 Ideologies: Definition and Purpose
    12.2 Main Ideologies and the Political Spectrum
13. Liberalism: History, Authority and the Social Contract
    13.1 Classical Liberalism
    13.2 Reform Liberalism
    13.3 Neoliberalism?
14. Conservatism: Attitude, Nature and Tradition
    14.1 The Flexibility of Conservatism?
    14.2 Economic and Social Conservatism
15. Socialism: Introduction
    15.1 Four Key Traits
    15.2 Marxism
    15.3 Socialism in the West
    15.4 Anarchism and Syndicalism
16. Nationalism: Nations and Nationalism
    16.1 National Mythology
    16.2 Trends and Possible Negatives
    16.3 Fascism

Performance Requirements and Student Services

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand-in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No late assignments are accepted after the last day of classes. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance
Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct
Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:
- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;

- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors.

Specialized Supports
The Student Services department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano College. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented differently this semester by being provided mostly virtually. In-person service can be requested as needed. All Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed for in-person appointments—wear a mask, maintain two meters of physical distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay home if you are unwell.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30.

Accessibility Services: provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility services supports and to book a virtual appointment, please contact accessibility.services@keyano.ca.

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students, as well as technology training and supports to enhance learning. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes. Schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing accessibility.services@keyano.ca

Wellness Services: offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. All individual appointments will continue virtually.

Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in any of the virtual group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual virtual appointments can be made by emailing wellness.services@keyano.ca.

Library Services: provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to support you both virtually and in person throughout the semester.

For a detailed list of library supports and services, go to www.keyano.ca/library. For any inquiries, please email askthelibrary@keyano.ca.

Begin your research with the Library's FIND page. Search for sources using OneSearch, the Library's Catalogue, or by searching in a specific database selected from the A-Z Database List.

Individual support with the Information Librarian is available virtually. Appointments can be requested by using the Book A Librarian online form.

Research and Subject Guides are helpful resources when beginning your research or addressing other information needs. To view a subject or course specific guide, go to the Subject Guide webpage here.

To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the Research Help Library page.

The Loanable Technology collection is available to support students in their online learning pursuits. Items available for borrowing include mobile projectors, webcams, noise cancelling headphones, Chromebooks, and laptops. For an up-to-date list of technology available for borrowing, go to the Library's Loanable Technology webpage.

Skill Centre: Provides academic support services to students registered in credit programs at Keyano College in the form of tutoring, assignment/lab support, writing support groups, facilitated study groups, workshops, and study space. This service is free and is available for all Math, Sciences, Humanities and Trades courses offered at Keyano.

While most courses are being offered online, the Skill Centre will be offering mostly virtual services and in-person sessions as requested. Please email Skill@keyano.ca to get in contact with our Academic Content Specialists. The Skill Centre is located in CC-119 at the Clearwater Campus.

For the most up to date information on how to book a session, please view the Keyano Skill Centre homepage.

Academic Success Coaching: offers you support and access to resources for your academic success to help you to find the Keys to your Success. The Academic Success Coach will work with you to develop an academic success plan, develop your study and time management skills, and connect you with the right resources here at Keyano. Academic.success@keyano.ca is the best way to access resources during virtual service delivery. The Academic Success Coach is located in the Skill Centre in CC-119 at the Clearwater Campus.

E-Learning
Technology and internet will impact your online learning experience. It's important that you are able to watch an online video and other course materials, take online quizzes, and participant in a live class with your instructor and other students.

Keyano College operates in a Windows based environment and having the correct tools for online learning is important. Here's a list of recommended system requirements.

Internet Speed
Minimum Internet speeds of 5 Mbps.
Recommended Internet speeds of 25 Mbps (especially if you are sharing your internet at home).
Check your internet speed with Fast.com.

System requirements:

Microsoft Windows	Apple

Minimum Requirements:	**Minimum Requirements:**
A Windows 10 **computer/laptop**	A Macintosh (V10.14 and above) **computer/laptop**
· Minimum 4GB of RAM.	· Minimum 4GB of RAM.
· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.	· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.
· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). [Microsoft Office](#) software is free to all Keyano students and employees.	· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). [Microsoft Office](#) software is free to all Keyano students and employees.
· Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended.	· Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended.
· System updates must be regularly installed.	· System updates must be regularly installed.
· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software	· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software.
Recommended Requirements	**Recommended Requirements**
· 8GB of RAM	· 8GB of RAM
· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.	· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.

Chromebooks are **not** recommended as they are not compatible with testing lockdown browsers.

A Microsoft Surface or iPad or iPad Pro may be possible alternatives in some program areas.

Specific Department Requirements:
Business and OA programs require Windows 10.
Other programs may utilize Windows based tools as well.

Computer Software
Students will be able to get access to Microsoft Office 365 for free using Keyano credentials by [clicking here](#).

Recording of Lectures and Intellectual Property
Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or by Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not share, distribute, or publish any of the lectures or lecture materials, this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc. on any platform. Thus no student is allowed to share, distribute, publish or sell course related content (instructor, or students) without permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property. The [Academic Integrity Policy](#) provides additional information on Keyano College's expectations from students as members of the intellectual community.

ITS Helpdesk

If you are having issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing its.helpdesk@keyano.ca or calling 780-791-4965.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Services team.