

**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**

Mark Young, Ph D.

S213C

780.791.4825

[Mark.Young@keyano.ca](mailto:Mark.Young@keyano.ca)**Office Hours**

Tuesdays	2:00-4:00pm	S213C
Wednesdays	1:00m-2:00pm	S213C
Fridays	1:00pm-3:00pm	S213C

(or by appointment)

**Hours of Instruction**

Fridays	8:00am-10:50pm	S112
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**Required Resources**

None

**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	14 October	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
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	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.
	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. Identity and Politics
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 Who is Sovereign in Canada?
  - 7.4 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 Hindrances to Cooperation
12. Political Philosophy
  - 12.1 Ideologies: Definition and Purpose
  - 12.2 Main Ideologies and the Political Spectrum
13. Liberalism:
  - 13.1 Impetuses of Liberalism
  - 13.2 Four Shared Traits
  - 13.3 Classical Liberalism
  - 13.4 Reform Liberalism
  - 13.5 Neoliberalism?
14. Conservatism
  - 14.1 Two Arguments for Conservatism

- 14.2 Types of Conservatism
- 15. Socialism:
  - 15.1 Four Key Traits
  - 15.2 Marxism
  - 15.3 Socialism in the West
  - 15.4 Anarchism and Syndicalism
- 16. Nationalism:
  - 16.1 Nations and Nationalism
  - 16.2 National Mythology and the Canadian Nation
  - 16.3 Trends and Possible Negatives
  - 16.4 Fascism
- 17. Feminism: Introduction
  - 17.1 Liberal Feminism
  - 17.2 Marxist Feminism
  - 17.3 Radical Feminism
  - 17.4 Third Wave
- 18. Environmentalism
  - 18.1 Conservationism and HWE
  - 18.2 Deep Ecology
  - 18.3 Animal Rights
- 19. Post-Colonial Theory
- 20. Political Islam
- 21. Confucian Political Thought
- 22. Political Organization
  - 22.1 Classical Typology
  - 22.2 Presidential and Parliamentary Systems
  - 22.3 Federal and Unitary Systems
  - 22.4 Liberal Democracies
  - 22.5 Transitional Democracies
  - 22.6 Autocratic Systems

### **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**

As a student, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the required forms, including the Withdraw Course or Program or a Change of Registration form. Please refer to the important dates listed in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and the Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and the Code of Conduct Policies.

**Student Attendance**

Class attendance is helpful for two reasons: First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is an excellent way to keep informed of matters relating to the course administration (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course. It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Absent students are responsible for the material covered in those classes, and students must ensure they are ready for their next class, including completing any missed assignments and notes.

**Academic Misconduct**

Students are considered responsible adults and should adhere to the principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty takes many forms:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as their 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,
- Submitting unchanged work 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. To ensure your understanding of plagiarism, you may be required to complete the online [Understanding Plagiarism tutorial](#) and submit the certificate of completion.

**Online Learning**

Technology and internet connectivity will impact your online learning experience. You may be required to watch online videos, take online quizzes, or participate in live online classes. Live/virtual courses will be hosted in Microsoft Teams or Zoom. For all course delivery types, you will access your course resources on Keyano's learning management system: Moodle (iLearn). Login in using your [Keyano username and password](#). Keyano College operates in a Windows-based environment and having access to the correct tools for online learning is essential. Here's a list of recommended system requirements.

**Internet Speed**

Minimum download and upload speeds of 10 Mbps. Recommended download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 10 Mbps (if you are sharing your internet at home). You can check your internet speed with [Speedtest by Ookla](#).

**Computer System Requirements**

Microsoft Windows	Apple (Mac)
<p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windows 10 Operating System or above</li> <li>4GB of RAM</li> <li>10GB available hard drive storage space               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install the Microsoft Office 365 suite (~3GB) *</li> </ol> </li> <li>Microphone, webcam, and speakers (All modern laptops have these three accessories built-in.)</li> <li>Windows has built-in anti-virus/malware software. It is essential to install system updates to keep your device secured regularly.</li> </ol> <p>*<a href="#">Microsoft Office 365</a> is free to Keyano students.</p>	<p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mac Operating System 10.14 (Monterey) or above</li> <li>4GB of RAM</li> <li>10GB available hard drive storage space               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install the Microsoft Office 365 suite (~3GB) *</li> </ol> </li> <li>Microphone, webcam, and speakers (All modern laptops have these three accessories built-in.)</li> <li>Mac has built-in anti-virus/malware software. It is important to install system updates to keep your device secured regularly.</li> </ol> <p>*<a href="#">Microsoft office 365</a> is free to Keyano students.</p>
<p><b>Recommended Upgrades</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8GB of RAM</li> <li>Regularly back up or synchronize your files, locally or with a cloud-based storage option.</li> </ul> <p>OneDrive is the cloud-based storage option free to students after the setup of KeyanoMail and Microsoft 365.</p>	<p><b>Recommended Upgrades</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8GB of RAM</li> <li>Regularly back up or synchronize your files locally or with a cloud-based storage option.</li> </ul> <p>OneDrive is the cloud-based storage option free to students after the setup of KeyanoMail and Microsoft 365.</p>
<p>Tablets, iPads, and Chromebooks are <b>not</b> recommended: they may not be compatible with the testing lockdown browsers and Microsoft Office 365.</p>	

**Specific Department Requirements**

Business and OA programs require Windows 10.  
Other programs may utilize Windows-based tools as well.

**Computer Software**

Students have access to Microsoft Office 365 and Read&Write for free using Keyano credentials.

**Recording of Lectures and Intellectual Property**

Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or 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 course 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 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 have issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing [its.helpdesk@keyano.ca](mailto:its.helpdesk@keyano.ca) or calling 780-791-4965.

**COVID-19** We are subject to provincial, and municipal bylaws, and policies. These decisions may change pending further direction from the Alberta Chief Medical Officer, Alberta Health Services, and other provincial guidelines. To protect yourself and others, get immunized, wash your hands, wear a mask, keep your distance (2m/6 ft) and remain home when feeling unwell. For the most recent COVID-19 information, please refer to [albertahealthservices.ca/COVID](https://albertahealthservices.ca/COVID).

**Specialized Supports** The Student Services Department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There is a variety of student support available at Keyano. All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The College is closed on statutory holidays. If you require support outside of regular business hours, please inform the support service team, and they will do their best to accommodate your needs.

**Accessibility Services** provides accommodations for students living with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities or who suspect a disability can meet with an Access Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact the department to request accommodations for the following semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact the department as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility supports and disability-based funding, please book an appointment by emailing us at: [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca).

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students and technology training and support to enhance learning. You can meet with an Access Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies. In addition, you can schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing: [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto: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 provide a safe and confidential environment for you to seek help with personal concerns. Our Wellness Navigator offers support with basic needs such as housing, financial and nutritional support, and outside referrals when needed. Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in group sessions that address topics including mindfulness and test anxiety throughout the academic year. Individual appointments can be made by emailing [wellness.services@keyano.ca](mailto:wellness.services@keyano.ca).

**Library Services:** provides students with research, information, and education technology supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to help you online and in person throughout the semester. Librarians offer individual and small group appointments booked using the online [Book A Librarian calendar](#). The Library also provides research and subject guides to help you with your studies. To view a subject or course-specific guide, check out the complete list of online [Subject Guides](#). To start your research and access citation guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), visit the [Research Help page](#). The Library's collections (including print and online materials) are searchable using [OneSearch](#). The Library offers a Loanable Technology collection to support students accessing and using technology. For an up-to-date list of technology available for borrowing, visit the Library's [Loanable Technology webpage](#). For a detailed list of library resources and services, go to [www.keyano.ca/library](http://www.keyano.ca/library). For all inquiries, please email [askthelibrary@keyano.ca](mailto:askthelibrary@keyano.ca) or [chat with us online](#).

**Academic Success Centre:** The Academic Success Centre at Keyano College (CC-119) provides **free** academic support services to registered students, such as tutoring, writing support, facilitated study groups, workshops, and study space. Academic Content Specialists are available in Mathematics, Science, Trades, Power Engineering, Upgrading/College Prep, Human Services, English, Humanities, and more. Students are encouraged to visit the Academic Success Centre to discuss study strategies and academic concerns. For additional information, please email [Academic.Success@keyano.ca](mailto:Academic.Success@keyano.ca).

**Academic Success Coach:** The Academic Success Coach is located in the Academic Success Centre and works with students to develop academic success plans, time management skills, study strategies, and homework plans. For additional information, please email [Academic.Success@keyano.ca](mailto:Academic.Success@keyano.ca).

**Authorization**

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

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Mark Young, Instructor

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Marie-France Jones, Chair

Date Authorized

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Sandra Efu, Dean

Date Authorized

**Signed copies to be delivered to:**

Instructor

Registrar's Office