



Course Outline

[UNIVERSITY STUDIES](#)

**Political Science 101A
Introduction to Government and Politics
Fall 2014**

**3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mark Young

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PHONE NUMBER: (780) 791-4825

EMAIL: Mark.Young@keyano.ca

OFFICE NUMBER: S213C

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 5-6pm; Wednesdays 2-4pm; Fridays 1-3pm (or by appointment)

CLASS TIMES: Wednesdays 12:00-12:50pm, S273; Fridays 9:00am-10:50am, S220

PRE-REQUISITES:

None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is the introductory course in Political Science, and is the pre-requisite for second year Political Science courses. As such, 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 course will introduce students to basic political ideas such as justice, equality, and power. The student will also develop an understanding of key political processes and institutions.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the main political ideologies within the field of political science.
2. Examine key political topics and concepts, such as freedom, justice, democracy and power, important to the field of political science.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the concepts key political processes and institutions through exams, assignments and in-class discussion.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

There are two goals I attempt to achieve while teaching; facilitate understanding and provide students with the freedom to formulate their own positions on the issues considered. To accomplish these two goals I refrain, as much as possible, from divulging my own positions on the issues considered, and instead focus on simply explaining, and sometimes critiquing, the specific text under consideration. I will

therefore alternate between learning guide and devil's advocate for the purpose of challenging students to develop their own positions critically. With each class we will focus on an assigned reading, and discussion of the reading amongst the whole class will be strongly encouraged; although no marks are based on participation. With our discussions it is important to display appropriate respect for everyone involved. To disagree with others is fine, and even encouraged, but it must be done through arguments, and not personal attacks.

COURSE TEXT:

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

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of four assignments. These assignments include: a mid-term, paper proposal, term paper 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.

First Exam:

The first exam will cover material covered up to a week before the exam is scheduled. The exam will include multiple choice questions, short-answer question and an essay questions. The essay question will be provided before the exam, and it will follow the same format of the paper proposal and term paper. 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.

Paper Proposal:

The paper proposal should be between 500-700 words, and include an annotated bibliography. The structure for the paper proposal will follow a structure similar to the structure of the term paper. This structure will be detailed in class, and an outline will be posted on Moodle. The annotated bibliography must contain three sources; one source will be the course textbook and two sources students must find via their own research. With the paper proposal students will have to offer an explicit thesis, a very brief summary of the topic, and an indication of why the student wants to write on this topic.

Term Paper:

The term paper should be between 5-7 pages (or 1500-2100 words), contain at least two references – the textbook and one additional source - and focus on the topic outlined in the paper proposal. The additional source for the term paper must come from appropriate scholarly publications, i.e. books, journals and anthologies, and not from the internet. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term.

Final Exam:

The final Exam will cover material considered after the first exam. The exam will include multiple choice, short answer and likely two essay questions. More details will offered concerning this exam as it approaches.

ASSIGNMENT DATES:

17 October	First Exam	Worth 30%
7 November	Paper Proposal	Worth 10%
21 November	Term Paper	Worth 20%
TBA	Final Exam	Worth 40%

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

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 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.

READING SCHEDULE:

I Introduction: The Study of Political Science, pp.xxi-xxxiv.

II Basics Concepts:

1. Government and Politics, pp.3-12.
2. Power Legitimacy, and Authority, pp.13-26.
3. Sovereignty, State, and Citizenship, pp.27-38.
4. The Nation, pp.39-48.
5. Political Culture and Socialism, pp.49-59.
6. Law, pp.60-67.
7. Constitutionalism, pp.68-82.
8. Cooperation under Anarchy, pp.83-96.

III Ideology:

9. Ideology, pp.99-111.
10. Liberalism, pp.112-130.
11. Conservatism, pp.131-143.
12. Socialism and Communism, pp.144-162.
13. Nationalism, pp.163-176.
14. Feminism, pp.177-194.
15. Environmentalism, pp.195-205.

IV Forms of Government:

16. Classification of Political Systems, pp.209-215.
17. Liberal Democracy, pp.216-239.
18. Transitions to Democracy, pp.240-257.
19. Autocratic Systems of Government, pp.258-273.
20. Parliamentary and Presidential Systems, pp.274-301.

21. Unitary and Federal Systems, pp.302-317.

V The Political Process:

22. The Political Process, pp.321-328.

23. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements: The Organization of Interests, pp.329-357.

24. Communications Media, pp.358-371.

25. Elections and Electoral Systems, pp.372-390.

26. Representative Assemblies, pp.391-407.

27. The Political Executive, pp.408-419.

28. The Administration, pp.420-430.

29. The Judiciary, pp.431-446.

GRADING SCHEMA

Letter Grade	Description	Grade Points
A+		4
A	Excellent	4
A-		3.7
B+		3.3
B	Good	3
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	Satisfactory	2
C-		1.7
D+		1.3
D	Minimal Pass	1
F	Failure	0

Students intending to transfer to other institutions require a 'C-' as a minimum grade.

Transfer information on each course is available at the [Alberta Council on Admission and Transfers](#).

Students who do not complete all the required work should not expect to pass the course.

Students should consult: http://www.keyano.ca/current_students/examinations/index.htm

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 16, 2014	Last day to DROP courses with full refund (\$100 deposit is non-refundable)
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October 10, 2014	Last day to WITHDRAW with a refund (50%)
November 26, 2014	Last day to WITHDRAW (Grade of W)
December 5, 2014	Last day of classes
December 8 - 12, 2014	Final Exams (<i>do not book holiday travel until you know your exam schedule!</i>)

MOODLE:

This course is supported through Moodle, as various assignment aids, course outline, as well as other relevant documents will be posted on Moodle. Students will be expected to frequently check the course Moodle platform. Nonetheless, the best way to contact me is via email.

COLLEGE POLICIES:

Equality, Equity and Respect

The Keyano College is committed to providing an environment of equality, equity and respect for all people within the College community. All members of this community are considered partners in developing teaching and learning contexts that are welcoming to all. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to use inclusive language to create a classroom atmosphere in which students' experiences and views are treated with equal respect and valued in relation to their gender, ethnic and cultural background, and sexual orientation.

Students should consult:

<http://www.keyano.ca/StudentLife/StudentConduct/IndividualRightsPolicy>

Plagiarism and Cheating

Every student expects to be treated and evaluated fairly in a course. Plagiarism and cheating robs everyone of this right.

- No student may submit words, ideas or data of another student or person as his or her own in any writing, project, assignment, quiz, electronic presentation, exam etc. Any work used that is not the student's own must be clearly cited as belonging to someone else. There are penalties for using other's work and not citing it. The Student's Rights & Responsibilities document clearly outlines these penalties and the appeal process.
- No learner can obtain information from another student during an exam.
- No learner can bring unauthorized information (paper or electronic) into an exam or quiz.
- No student can submit work done in another course for grading in this course without the written prior approval of the course instructor.
- No student can submit copyright protected or commercially produced materials as part or all of an assignment without proper citation & permission.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students should consult the Keyano College Credit Calendar or online at:

<http://www.keyano.ca/Academics/CreditCalendar>

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling. Disability Services provides educational services to students with disabilities.

Both Counselling and Disability Services are located in CC167.



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Date

Reviewed and approved by:

Louis Dingley, Chair

Date

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date