Course Outline

UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Political Science 101E
Introduction to Government and Politics
Winter 2013

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

INSTRUCTOR: Laura Roberts
INSTRUCTOR: Laura Roberts

PHONE NUMBER: (780) 791-4827

E-MAIL: laura.roberts@keyano.ca

OFFICE NUMBER: S211A

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday 11:00-11:50PM
Tuesday 2:00 - 2:50 PM
Thursday 2:00 – 3:50PM
Friday 11:00 – 11:50 AM

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:
Wednesday 6:30PM – 9:30 PM Syncrude Centre, 218

PRE-REQUISITE(S):
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 should 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. Apply research skills in the preparation of short in-class presentations related to the key concepts and ideologies within the field of political science.

5. Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course will be largely taught by applying participatory learning tools and techniques, incorporating activities geared towards different learning styles and adhering to the main principles of Adult Education. Therefore, the class will incorporate a variety of learning activities, such as large and small discussion groups, reflection papers, review of documentary films, in-class examinations, and online quizzes. The variety of learning tools applied in this course will enrich student learning and also appeal to a wide variety of different learning styles.

You will be expected to critically engage yourself in the course materials, lectures, and discussions (both online and in-class). You might ask yourself, what does “critical engagement” mean? Well, this means that you will be actively processing what you are learning from week to week, by actively comparing the various perspectives and concepts you will be introduced to, by challenging what you think you know, and expanding on previous ideas.

In addition, to your “critical engagement” in the class, the following practices will make for a better classroom environment and go a long way towards building and deepening your understanding of the course materials:

✓ Read the assigned chapter(s) before class. When you do your readings, focus on understanding the key concepts, try to link examples to ideas, to understand differences and debates in approaches to sociology, to think about knowledge in context, and to ask probing questions about social life. Take notes. Read each chapter twice.

✓ Be present, listen, and think. Turn off your cell phone (or put it on ‘vibrate’ if necessary) and turn off the wireless connection on your laptop. Also be sure to take notes on main and supporting points during class.

✓ Make sure you attend all classes and contribute positively to the class environment. Engage with lecture material, ask questions, listen to what others have to say, respectfully add to discussion.

IMPORTANT DATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18th, 2013</td>
<td>Courses dropped after this date will be designated “W”. (A withdrawal (W) is not reflected in your GPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8th, 2013</td>
<td>Courses dropped after this date will be designated “WF”. (A withdrawal failure (WF) counts as a 0 in your GPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19th, 2013</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22-30th, 2013</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOODLE

Go to http://ilearn.keyano.ca

This course is supported through Moodle. Assignments, readings, and powerpoint presentations will be posted on Moodle. Students will be expected to frequently check the course Moodle platform for updates, extra readings and assignments. The instructor will use Moodle as the main form of communication with the students in this course; therefore it is the student's responsibility to check Moodle on a regular basis.

Access to Moodle

Go to http://ilearn.keyano.ca. Login information will be provided by your instructor. For further instructions please see the Moodle handout. Go to Log In. Type in your student ID number with the dashes in the user name box (000-00-0000). Repeat the same ID number in the password box. For further instructions please see the Moodle handout. A course syllabus will be posted in the Moodle. Please check your Moodle frequently. Also, check the S-Drive for detailed course outlines.

TEXT(S)/MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Politics, Power and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science (third edition). Written by: Eric Mintz, David Close, Osvaldo Croci. Published by Pearson Education.

Additional readings will be posted to Moodle throughout the course.

EVALUATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>throughout the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 13\textsuperscript{rd}, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm I</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 13\textsuperscript{rd}, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm II</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 20\textsuperscript{nd}, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) SEMINAR PARTICIPATION (15%) - throughout the term
This includes occasional in-class quizzes, response papers, occasional online discussion forums and group activities. Note: missed quizzes cannot be made up.

2) TERM PAPER (15%) – Wednesday, March 12\textsuperscript{th}
A detailed handout regarding the term paper, with potential paper topics and options, will be distributed in class and posted to Moodle.
3) **IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAMINATION I (20%) – Wednesday, February 13th**
The mid-term examination will consist of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions and short answer questions. The exam will be administered in class for the full period, and will cover materials from the first few chapters covered in the course.

4) **IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAMINATION II (20%) – Wednesday, March 20th**
The mid-term examination will consist of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions and short answer questions. The exam will be administered in class for the full period, and will cover materials from the chapters covered since the first midterm examination.

5) **FINAL EXAMINATION (35%) – Date TBA**
The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions, short answer questions, and short essay questions. The exam will be administered in class for the full period, and will cover ALL course materials with an emphasis on the later topics covered in class.

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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/Committees/IRA/Individual_Rights_Policy.asp

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.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

Please Note:
This course outline may be modified to facilitate unforeseen time constraints. Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. Also please note that additional required readings will be posted to Moodle throughout the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - What is Political Science?</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 - Globalization and Politics</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 3 - Political Ideals: Freedom, Equality, and Democracy  
Chapter 3

Week 4 - Political Ideologies:  
Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, & Fascism  
Chapter 4

Week 5 - New Political Perspectives:  
Occupy Movement, Arab Spring, Feminism, Environmentalism  
Chapter 5

Week 6 - Midterm Examination 1 – February 13th

Week 6 & 7 - Political Culture, Political Participation, Political Socialization  
Chapter 6

Week 8 - Reading Week

Week 9 - Electoral Politics:  
Political Parties, Elections, Electoral Systems & Voting Behaviour  
Chapter 7,8,9

Week 10 - Unconventional and Highly Conflictive Politics  
from Protest to Revolution  
Chapter 10

Week 11 - Different Kinds of Government:  
Democratic and Non-Democratic Governments  
Chapter 11, 13

Week 12 - Midterm Examination II – March 20th

Week 12 & 13 - Canada and the Parliamentary System  
Chapter 14

Week 14 - United States and the Presidential System  
Chapter 15

Week 15 - Politics and Development in the Global South  
& Politics and Governance at the International Level  
Chapter 17, 18