



**Course Outline**

**[UNIVERSITY STUDIES](#)**

**Political Science 101E  
Introduction to Government and Politics  
Winter 2014**

**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	3:00-3:50 PM
Tuesday	2:00 - 3:50 PM
Wednesday	3:00 – 3:50 PM
Thursday	3:00 – 3:50 PM

**HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Monday 6:30PM – 9:30 PM                      Syncrude Centre, 273

**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.

## TEXT(S)/MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Brodie, J., Rein, S., & Smith, M. (2014) *Critical concepts: an introduction to politics (5th Edition)*. Pearson Canada

Additional readings will be posted to Moodle throughout the course.

## EVALUATION:

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Seminar Participation	15%	throughout the course
Term Paper	15%	March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Midterm I	20%	February 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014
Midterm II	20%	March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Final Examination	30%	TBA

### *1) SEMINAR PARTICIPATION (20%) - throughout the term*

This may include occasional in-class quizzes, online quizzes, response papers, class presentations and in-class group activities. NOTE: Missed quizzes cannot be made up; however, your two lowest scores will be dropped in this category. Participation in the Arts and Humanities Conference in March may be considered equivalent to one short reflection paper.

### *2) TERM PAPER (15%) – Monday, March 24th*

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%) – Monday, February 3rd*

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%) – Monday, March 17th*

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 (30%) – 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 during the examination period, and will cover ALL course materials with an emphasis on the later topics covered in class.

## GRADING SYSTEM:

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](http://www.keyano.ca/current_students/examinations/index.htm)

## IMPORTANT DATES:

January 10, 2014	Last day to Add for Academic Programs
January 17, 2014	Last Day to Drop Academic Programs
February 17, 2014	College Closed (Family Day)
February 24-1, 2014	Reading Week
March 7, 2014	Last Day to withdraw without Academic penalty

April 18, 2014	College Closed (Good Friday)
April 21, 2014	College Closed (Easter Monday)
April 17, 2014	Last day of classes
April 22-30, 2014	Final Exams

## 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.

## 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>

## Specialized Supports and Duty to Accommodate

### *Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program*

If you have a documented disability or you think that you would benefit from some assistance from a Disabilities Counsellor, please call or visit the Disability Supports Office 780-792-5608 to book an appointment (across from the library). Services and accommodations are intended to assist you in your program of study, while maintaining the academic standards of Keyano College. We can be of assistance to you in disclosing your disability to your instructor, providing accommodations, and supporting your overall success at Keyano College.

### *Specialized Supports and Duty to Accommodate*

Specialized Support and Duty to Accommodate are aligned with the office of Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program (LAP) guided by federal and provincial human rights legislation, and defined by a number of Keyano College policies. Keyano College is obligated by legislation to provide disability-related accommodations to students with identified disabilities to the point of undue hardship.

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**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 may be posted to Moodle throughout the term

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

### Week 1 - What is Political Science? Understanding Politics

- Power and Politics by *Janine Brodie*

### Week 2 - Political Ideals: Freedom, Equality, and Democracy

- Big Ideas by *Roger Epp*
- Democratic Ideas by *Catherine Kellogg*

### Week 3- Political Ideologies: Neoliberalism

- Neo-liberalism by *Janine Brodie and Alexa Degagne*
- A Brief Introduction to Neoliberalism by *David Harvey* - to be posted to Moodle

### Week 4 - Political Ideologies: Radical Ideas: Socialism, Anarchism & Fascism

- Radical Ideas by *Sandra Rein*
- What's Left Out?: Dissent, Race, and the Social Contract by *Falguni A. Sheth*

### Week 5 - Midterm 1- February 3rd, 2014

### Week 6 - The Canadian State

- The State by *Lois Harder*
- Constitutions and Institutions by *Ian Urquhart*

### Week 7 - February 17th, Holiday- No Classes

NOTE: Week 8 Reading Week February 24 - March 1, 2014
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### Week 9 - Elections & Democracy

- Representation by *Steve Patten*
- Chapter 6 from *Power, Politics and the Common Good* – to be posted to Moodle

### Week 10 - Alternative Political Arenas: “Politics in the Media and on the Streets”

- Media by *Shauna Wilton*
- What's Left Out?: Power, Violence, and War by *Sean F. McMahon*

### Week 11 – Midterm II – March 17th, 2014

### Week 11 & 12 Global Politics, International Relations, United Nations & NGOs

- International Relations and the Global by *Siobhan Byrne*
- International Organizations by *Tom Keating*
- Global Political Economy by *Rob Aitken*

### Week 13 Poverty and Global Inequality

- A Genealogy of Poverty by *Malinda S. Smith*
- Chapters 17 from *Power, Politics and the Common Good* – to be posted to Moodle

### Week 15 Indigenous & Transnational Movements

- Indigeneity and Self-Governance by *Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez*
- What's Left Out?: ChIndia and Transnational Social Movements by *Meenal Shrivastava*